

worked our Bowie never had to back up another soul singer, and there were no more Holiday performances or factory floors, or anything else.

"Bowie has raised six kids and most of them are through college (there are eight grandkids). I have homes and cars. Most people are full. Always, always. People hire me to come and tell them what they've learned by being with me."

He's played sports arenas in Spain, the Olympic Stadium in Rome, Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, and 7,000 people came to West Bank Fantasy at La Villette in Paris.

"We're playing for an informed audience," he says. "People know about the blues, jazz and world music by now. They know their hands. Everybody's pretty much aware of the cross-cultural thing. I've never been able to understand the way record companies underestimate the intelligence of the listeners."

"People are catching on. They've got videos, they're reading books, they're operating companies. The wheels in their heads are not more than one thing. They can be a rock star, an actress, Oscar Peterson, a nice painter. And I want to buy leather jacket too."

Not one of the successful musicians he's grown up with has stayed with the same career, nor for how many years. Once they're given birth to themselves, they're able to find the freedom to move to the limit of their potential. There's a lack of what calls it "the need to move."

Kitazawa's customers can now purchase an \$80 box of Ginseng tablets or a \$10 health tonic with Visa if they want. But in the six months that the credit card machine has been sitting on the counter, it's never been used. Not a single customer has paid with a card, and that's fine by Kitazawa.

"We did install it for the Olympics, but if possible I'd like to be paid in cash," he said.

Credit cards are catching on in Japan, especially among younger people and especially in big cities. Most Japanese on the streets of Tokyo probably have a major credit card in their wallet. But only about 5 percent of Japanese consumer spending is done with credit cards, compared with 21 percent in the United States, according to American Express Co.

And in relatively small cities such as Nagano, many people still regard credit cards as a bizarre substitute for real money.

"I think it's so strange; I guess Westerners don't use cash," said a woman running a souvenir shop at the Nagano train station, who observed, "People who speak English tend to use credit cards."

To the amazement of Japanese shopkeepers, foreigners showing up for the Olympics are pulling out plastic credit cards to pay for souvenirs.

The World's Daily Newspaper

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

R

London, Thursday, February 5, 1998

No. 35,747

## Olympic Crowd Confronts Japan With an Oddity: Credit Cards

By Kevin Sullivan and Mary Jordan  
Washington Post Service

NAGANO, Japan — Cash: the Japanese don't leave home without it.

Whether they're going to buy a car, pay college tuition or bribe a public official, they do it with cash. Lots of cash. Stacks of bills worth thousands of dollars.

"Cash can't go wrong," said Toshiichi Kitazawa, who runs a pharmacy on the busy shopping street just outside Zenkoji Temple, the 1,400-year-old symbolic backdrop of the Nagano Games.

Kitazawa and the other merchants on his street began accepting credit cards last summer, at the urging of the Olympic organizers who value Visa as an official Olympic sponsor and who worried about a million card-happy foreigners swooping in for the Games.

Kitazawa's customers can now purchase an \$80 box of Ginseng tablets or a \$10 health tonic with Visa if they want. But in the six months that the credit card machine has been sitting on the counter, it's never been used. Not a single customer has paid with a card, and that's fine by Kitazawa.

"We did install it for the Olympics, but if possible I'd like to be paid in cash," he said.

Credit cards are catching on in Japan, especially among younger people and especially in big cities. Most Japanese on the streets of Tokyo probably have a major credit card in their wallet. But only about 5 percent of Japanese consumer spending is done with credit cards, compared with 21 percent in the United States, according to American Express Co.

And in relatively small cities such as Nagano, many people still regard credit cards as a bizarre substitute for real money.

"I think it's so strange; I guess Westerners don't use cash," said a woman running a souvenir shop at the Nagano train station, who observed, "People who speak English tend to use credit cards."

To the amazement of Japanese shopkeepers, foreigners showing up for the Olympics are pulling out plastic credit cards to pay for souvenirs.

See PLASTIC, Page 7



A villager lighting a candle on Wednesday at the site where a ski-lift car plunged to earth after a low-flying U.S. Marine jet sliced through its cable at Cavalese, Italy.

Stefano Rellandini/Reuters

## Ski-Lift Deaths Anger Italy

**U.S. Jet Was Said to Be in Violation of Flight Rules**

By John Tagliabue  
New York Times Service

CAVALESE, Italy — As American and Italian officials began investigating the circumstances of the deaths of 20 people in this ski resort after a U.S. military airplane sliced the cables of a ski lift, Italian government leaders Wednesday called the accident a reckless tragedy that happened in clear violation of flight rules.

Local government officials in this Alpine region, with an economy reliant on tourism, said the tragedy Tuesday had capped years of complaints about military aircraft — mainly those of the Italian Air Force — flying threateningly low through mountain valleys and over the hamlets in them.

By Wednesday evening the victims — 11 men and 9 women — had been identified by the authorities as eight Germans, five Belgians, three Italians, a Polish woman and her 13-year-old son, an Austrian man and a Dutch woman.

At the same time, investigators said they had retrieved at the site of the crash parts of the aircraft — a U.S. Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler that carried out electronic surveillance over Bosnia — that returned after the incident to a U.S. Air Force base at Aviano, east of here, with its four crew members unharmed. Witnesses said the plane snagged its tail on the cable car wire.

On Wednesday afternoon, Prime Minister Romano Prodi, accompanied by his cabinet ministers for defense and justice, arrived in the village where he was met by the American ambassador, Thomas Foglietta, and senior U.S. military officers. After consulting with local officials and visiting the hospital where the bodies were being identified, Mr. Prodi said the incident was a "terrible act, a flight practically scraping the ground, beyond any limit set by rules and laws."

Visibly upset, Mr. Prodi said it was "an act

See JET, Page 7

## U.S. Executive Is Big Loser in Britain's Lottery

By Tom Buerkle  
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — For a nation that loves to gamble on everything from the sex of a royal offspring to the odds of a white Christmas, Britain's National Lottery was a sure winner from the start.

The lottery quickly established itself as the world's most lucrative after its start in 1995, selling tickets at the rate of £5 billion (\$8.20 billion) a year. It has doled out more than £7.5 billion in prizes to date and made 510 Britons

sterling-millionaires. Even more important for a country with a modest tradition of philanthropy, the lottery has generated a windfall of some £4.7 billion for British arts and charities.

But the lottery's largesse has made it a lightning rod for controversy, and never more so than this week. A High Court jury ruled in a libel case Monday that the key American executive behind the lottery's operating company had tried to bribe Richard Branson, owner of the Virgin music and airline group, to persuade him to drop his rival bid to operate the lottery on a nonprofit basis.

The verdict has dealt a major blow to the reputation of the executive, Guy Snowdon, and his U.S. company GTech, the biggest operator of lotteries around the globe. Mr. Snowdon, who was ordered to pay £100,000 in damages and legal fees estimated at £2 million, resigned as GTech's chief executive after the verdict, while the company's share price fell nearly 9 percent before steady Wednesday at \$27.56 on the New York Stock Exchange.

See LOTTERY, Page 5

### AGENDA

#### Balloon Gives Up Round-the-World Try

Three balloonists trying to make the first flight around the globe gave up their attempt Wednesday in the face of the refusal by China to allow them to pass through the country's airspace. The Breathing Orbiter 2, which set off

PAGE TWO  
Russian Hospitals: Citadels of Waste  
THE AMERICAS  
4 Call for Clinton to Clear the Air

Books ..... Page 9  
Crossword ..... Page 6  
Opinion ..... Pages 8-9  
Sports ..... Pages 20-21  
The IHT on-line ..... www.iht.com

from Switzerland on Jan. 28, was drifting over India and making for a landing either in Burma or in Thailand. If the balloon stayed up until noon GMT Thursday, it would set an endurance record. Page 5

Clinton Fund-Raiser Is Arrested in U.S.

Yah Lin (Charlie) Trie, the Democratic Party fund-raiser and longtime friend of President Bill Clinton, has been arrested after surrendering at a Washington airport. He had been on the run abroad for months to avoid questioning about fund-raising. Page 3.



Mr. Trie after appearing in court.

## Buffett's Big Silver Hoard Is Investor Expecting Inflation or Just Rising Demand?

By Floyd Norris  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The company controlled by Warren Buffett, one of the best-known and most widely followed investors in America, has accumulated a large portion of the world's silver supply, helping to drive the price of the metal to the highest level in nine years.

In so doing, Berkshire Hathaway Inc., the company controlled by Mr. Buffett, has made an investment that would be most likely to succeed if inflation returned, something that most investors view as unlikely. But it also could pay off if industrial demand for the metal continues to outstrip available supply.

Berkshire Hathaway said this week that it had accumulated more than \$850 million of silver.

The total stake — 129.7 million ounces — appears to be larger than the amount accumulated by the Hunt family of Texas in 1980. Silver prices soared then, only to crash later and bankrupt the Hunts. But its dollar value is far less

See SILVER, Page 7

Shooting for NBC's *Today* page 11

## U.S. Dismisses Offer By Iraq as Inadequate Momentum Builds for Military Strike

By Joseph Fitchett  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Baghdad offered Wednesday to accommodate some United Nations demands on weapons inspections, but with momentum toward a military strike building in Washington, the Clinton administration sounded skeptical about the chances of a diplomatic solution.

To end the crisis and avert a U.S. bombing campaign, American officials said, Iraq will have to provide unconditional access to all suspected weapons sites for international inspection teams.

With congressional support looking much stronger than it was ahead of the U.S. attack on Iraq in 1991, the Senate was moving Wednesday toward introducing a nonbinding reso-

lution authorizing President Bill Clinton to take "all necessary and appropriate actions to respond effectively" to Iraq's refusal to allow the weapons inspections.

[Mr. Clinton said Wednesday that "one way or the other" he would deny Iraq any weapons of mass destruction and that he was encouraged by an international consensus that Baghdad obey UN mandates, Reuters reported from Washington.]

"All of us would prefer a genuine, diplomatic solution," he said. But he added, "We are determined to deny Iraq the capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction, and the missiles to deliver them — that is our bottom line."

Coordinated approaches to Baghdad by France and Russia seemed to have won an Iraqi pledge to open some, but not all, of the areas known as presidential sites that have been off-limits to the UN teams of specialists.

The official Iraqi press agency said that President Saddam Hussein had accepted "the key elements" in a proposal transmitted to him by President Jacques Chirac of France in which diplomats from the Security Council's permanent members would accompany the UN experts to safeguard Iraq's sovereignty and legitimate security interests. Russia has urged a similar compromise.

While Paris and Moscow waited for their envoys to report personally, Washington restated its opposition to any compromise short of full Iraqi compliance in UN efforts to completely investigate Iraq's programs of chemical and biological arms.

"We would evaluate any idea in the context of our belief that Uniscom needs unfettered, unconditional access to the sites it needs to inspect," the White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, said, referring to the UN inspection team.

The inspectors have been unable to get Iraqi cooperation enabling specialists to carry out investigations in sensitive areas, some of them covering hundreds of acres, which intelligence reports indicate may be used as caches for materials related to weapons of mass destruction.

There was no U.S. timetable or deadline for getting Iraqi compliance, Mr. McCurry said.

See BAGHDAD, Page 6

## International Pleas for Clemency Fail to Halt Execution in Texas

By Sue Anne Pressley  
Washington Post Service

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Karla Faye Tucker, the double-murder turned born-again Christian, has been executed by lethal injection, closing a long fight for her life as a crowd outside the Texas death house prayed for her soul.

Ms. Tucker, 38, thus became the first woman executed in Texas since the Civil War and only the second in the United States since the resumption of the death penalty in 1976. Although she and her attorneys had played down her gender in their many pleas for clemency, the fact that she was a woman helped arouse international interest in her cause and generate appeals for mercy from figures including Pope John Paul II and the religious broadcaster Pat Robertson.

Wearing a white prison uniform and white tennis shoes, Ms. Tucker lay strapped on her back on a gurney as she delivered her final statements to the gathered witnesses, who included her husband, Dana Brown, a prison ministry worker she married by proxy in 1995, and Ronald Carlson, a Houston machinist and brother of one of the victims.

Europeans call execution a barbaric act. Page 7.

arm, along with pencyclidine bromide, which is a muscle relaxant, and potassium chloride, which stops the heartbeat. Within a few minutes, she was dead.

"I never saw Karla Faye Tucker take the smile off her face," said Vicente Arenas, a Houston television reporter who was among the witnesses.

The scene was emotional outside the Department of Criminal Justice facility here called the death house in this east Texas town of 35,000 north of Houston,

where a record 37 men were executed last year. Several hundred people on both sides of the issue crowded against yellow police lines, some still arguing over the value of the death penalty, others praying and singing "Amazing Grace" and other hymns.

"Bye-bye, Karla Faye," read one sign. "Forget Injection, Use a Pickax," read another.

But many others here were sympathetic to Ms. Tucker's plight: "I'm Ashamed to Be a Texan," one sign read, and another said: "Jesus Loves Karla Faye and So Do I."

Cheers went up from the pro-execution crowd when her death was announced.

The case had divided victims' families. Mr. Carlson, brother of Deborah Thornton, one of the two people Ms. Tucker was convicted of helping to kill, participated in rallies at the state Capitol in Austin asking that she be spared.

Richard Thornton, the victim's husband, argued that he was sick of the depiction of Ms. Tucker as "Miss Saint."

It had become increasingly clear on Monday that despite Ms. Tucker's efforts to show she was a changed person, notably in televised appearances on "60 Minutes," Mr. Robertson's "The 700 Club" and CNN, her quest to spare her life had failed. The state Board of Pardons and Paroles, which could have commuted her sentence to life in prison, voted, 16 to 0, with two members abstaining, to deny her request.

Ms. Tucker, who could have been



Sign-waving, hymn-singing crowds gathered outside the Huntsville, Texas, criminal justice building before the execution of Karla Faye Tucker for murder.

EPA/Gary The Associated Press

See TEXAS, Page 7

### High Society

#### The Dollar

Wednesday @ 4 P.M. previous close  
1.80 ..... 1.811  
1.6567 ..... 1.8487  
123.55 ..... 125.90  
6.037 ..... 6.0705

The Dow .....  
Wednesday close ..... previous close  
11,84 ..... 8,129.71 ..... 8,160.35

S & P 500 .....  
Wednesday @ 4 P.M. previous close  
1,008.90 ..... 1,008.98

Newstand Prices

Britain ..... 1,000 BD Malta ..... 55 c  
C.E. 1.00 Nigeria ..... 1,250 Naira  
Denmark ..... 14.00 DKR Oman ..... 1.250 QR  
Finland ..... 12.00 FM Qatar ..... 10.00 QR  
Germany ..... 2.08 Rep. Ireland ..... 1.200 IR  
Greece ..... 2.90 Saudi Arabia ..... 10 SR  
Egypt ..... 2.55 S. Africa ..... R12 + VAT  
Jordan ..... 1,250 JD U.A.E. ..... 10.00 Dhs  
Malta ..... K. SH. 160 U.S. MI (EUR) ..... \$1

**Citadels of Waste / Ignoring the Health Crisis**

# Huge Russian Hospital System Lacks Only One Thing: Patients

By Michael Specter  
New York Times Service

**T**OMSK, Russia — Tucked carefully into a pine forest, bathed in the sparkling Siberian air and filled with enough amenities to make a country club look spartan, the Pediatric Tuberculosis Center seems to sit on the cutting edge of Russian medicine.

In a nation whose government has concluded that half of its hospitals are too dilapidated to function, the center is in the midst of a robust development program. It has a dozen buildings, a school for patients and a staff of 134.

What the 500-bed hospital does not have, in this country where President Boris Yeltsin has called health care "our No. 1 national security crisis," are patients. Last year there were never more than 20 children here at a time. This month there are 13.

That is because the Tomsk hospital system is a citadel of waste. There are 88 hospitals in this city of 500,000. Twelve of them treat TB patients alone. There is a major clinical center with 21 departments and four surgical branches, and a university medical center duplicates almost exactly what is offered in the municipal center.

The hospitals have enormous heating costs; fleets of cars; large, poorly trained staffs, and patient services that overlap.

"If it was just one hospital burning money, then we could live with that," said Tatjana Grishina, a tuberculosis expert at the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences who has been to Tomsk to study the system. "But it is not one hospital. And it is not just tuberculosis. It is the whole story of Russian medicine."

"People talk about reform all the time in Russia. But nobody wants it. Reform is one of the dirtiest words in the country."

Health officials here, and throughout Russia, still dole out scarce money based almost solely on the number of beds in each hospital, without regard to whether they are

needed or how they are used. As a result, the Pediatric Center will receive nearly \$1 million in regional funds this year. With that money it will subject its 13 children to a needlessly expensive, academic treatment regimen that the World Health Organization has long considered worse than useless. The WHO has long argued that tuberculosis can be treated better and less expensively with drugs at home.

There may be no better way to understand the immense obstacles that reforms face in the Russian provinces, where they are needed most, than to look at how a place like Tomsk deals with its health-care problems.

Compared with other cities in Russia, it is neither backward nor unique. One of Siberia's oldest cities, filled with stately wooden houses that have withstood a century of snow, Tomsk used to live on an allowance dispensed from Moscow. All that has changed.

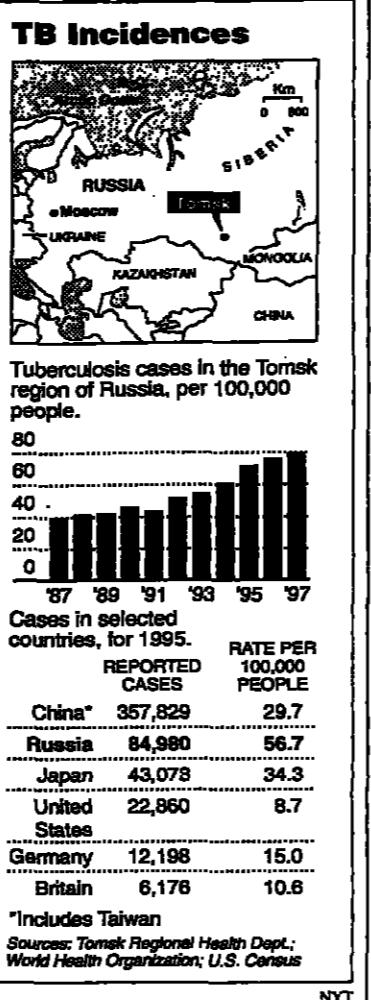
INDUSTRY has atrophied. The nearly free transportation system, essential in such a remote place, has virtually disappeared. Without it, half of the region has lost its access to decent medical treatment.

The federal money may be gone, but the network designed by the Soviet government — grand, cumbersome, repetitive and blind to the perverse and often baffling economics of medicine — lives on.

"This is more than a medical system," said Sergei Banin, Tomsk's No. 2 health official. "It is a social system. We are feeding the poor. We are providing thousands of jobs. We want an evolution here, not a revolution."

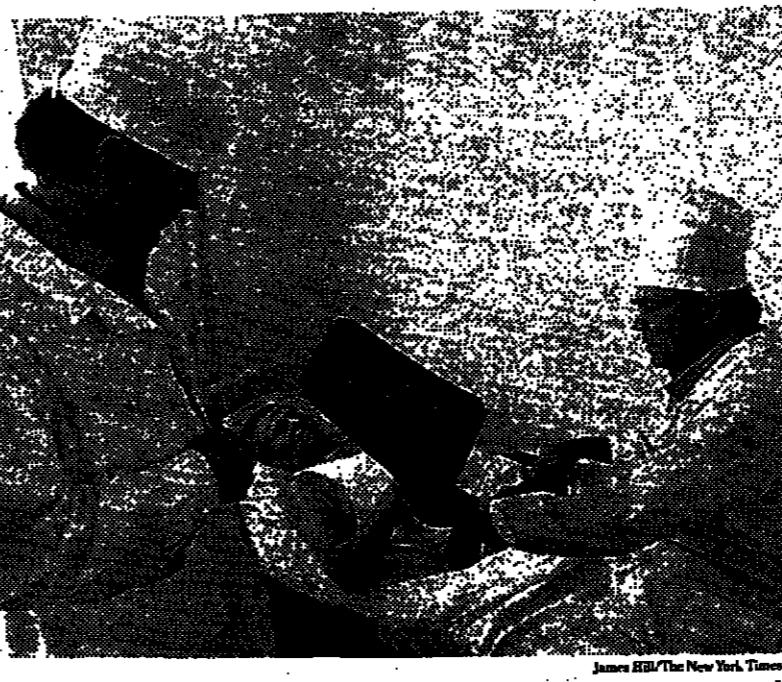
But there has been nothing gradual about the decline in the health of the Russian people.

Tomsk, like the rest of Russia, reels under a remarkable surge in infectious and parasitic diseases, and constant growth in cases of deadly heart disease, alcohol poisoning and cancer. Last year more people in Russia died from tuberculosis, which is entirely curable, than got the disease in the United States.



The government now predicts that the Russian population will shrink by at least 1 million people each year for at least a decade. Such a decrease has happened only a few times in history — and until now always in countries engulfed by war, plague or famine.

Many people say national officials simply need to spend more on their citizens' health. Money would help, of course. Last year Russia spent only



In the city of Tomsk, there are 88 hospitals for a city of 500,000. Twelve of them treat TB patients alone.

about \$75 a person on health care; the United States spent nearly \$4,000.

But increasingly, experts cite another statistic that may be more telling: Russia has 130 hospital beds for every 10,000 people. The United States has fewer than 40 beds per 10,000 people.

**L**GOR LINOK, the chief administrator of the Tomsk regional health-insurance fund, said: "You could not invent a more ridiculous health-care system than the one we now have."

Dr. Linok is a physician and an economist. It is his job to try to find a rational way to spread money across the Tomsk region, which has 1 million people in an area about the size of England.

"Everyone always says there is not enough money," he said. "We are poor, of course. But I don't even agree that there is not enough money. Look at the waste in this place."

Three-quarters of the \$4 million spent on tuberculosis treatment and testing here is wasted, according to Merlin, the British relief agency. Health department officials do not disagree. In 1996, a total of 532 children were discharged from various TB hos-

pitals in Tomsk after average stays of a little more than three months. Only 23 had been diagnosed with TB. The rest were there because their parents had the disease, or because they were suspected of being infected.

The New York Public Health Research Institute, with money from the financier and philanthropist George Soros, has offered to help Tomsk shift its health priorities.

The Soros plan, as it is called here, is simple. "Let's spend money on what works," Dr. Alex Goldfarb, who has been the plan's chief salesman, said in a recent interview. "And let's help people make that transition to a new way of life. But if there is no switch, there should be no funds. To get the money, people here need to get rid of those hospital beds."

That kind of talk drives many leaders in Russian medicine, already sick of being told how to do their jobs by outsiders, to open revolt.

"I thought humanitarian aid came without strings attached," said Alexei Primakov, who runs the largest national tuberculosis center in Moscow and is seen as the official voice of the conservative medical establishment. "Who are these people to tell us how to treat our citizens?"

## Airline Agency In U.S. Gets '2000' Warning

By Matthew L. Wald  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — At its current pace, the Federal Aviation Administration will not be able to remove all the "year 2000" bugs from its hundreds of critical computer systems before the turn of the century, which could jeopardize airline safety, increase costs and delay flights, the General Accounting Office has warned in a new report.

The accounting office faulted the aviation agency's management.

"At its current pace, it will not make it in time," the report said. It cited the agency's late start in correcting the problem and, among other blunders, appointing a manager for the project who retired and has not been replaced.

The FAA uses computers for everything from directing planes in the sky to managing and maintaining its inventory of safety and navigation equipment and scheduling inspections. Many of the computers and computer programs are old and are designed to recognize only the last two digits of the year. They may therefore recognize 2000 as "00" and assume that means 1900.

If the problem is not corrected, "the potential serious consequences include degraded safety, grounded or delayed flights, increased airline costs and customer inconvenience," the congressional auditors said.

The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on transportation, Representative Frank Wolf, Republican of Virginia, said in January that the aviation agency should "take a more aggressive and systematic approach to resolving these issues in a timely manner." Noting that International Business Machines Corp. had advised the agency of this problem months earlier, Mr. Wolf asked, "Where has the FAA been on this issue for the past 15 months?"

A Federal Aviation Administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the agency had completed assessing 425 of its 430 critical computer systems, including all systems in air traffic. Of 209 "mission critical" systems in air traffic, all have been assessed, and 125 are believed to lack the 2000 problem, the official said, although they had yet to be tested.

## Scientists Find 1959 AIDS Case From Congo

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Researchers have identified the AIDS virus in a blood sample drawn in 1959 from a man in what was then the Belgian Congo, making it the oldest known case of the infection in a human being.

The origin of the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, is one of the mysteries of the AIDS epidemic. There is a consensus that it arose in Central Africa, although exactly how, where and when the first case occurred are unknown.

The new study's placement of the original infection in the 1940s is somewhat earlier than many researchers had believed. The blood sample was taken in what is now Kinshasa, capital of Congo.

Molecular analysis suggests that the man probably was infected about a decade after the virus moved from nonhuman primates into humans. There is no evidence, however, that he was the first case of the disease.

The findings were reported in this week's issue of the journal *Nature*. By establishing more precisely when AIDS began, scientists may get a better picture of how it and other "emerging infections" have over time.

## China on Alert for Bombs

BEIJING — Hotels, airports and train stations in Beijing and parts of western China remain on alert against possible bomb attacks by Muslim separatists, said Wednesday. The Ministry of Public Security issued a notice ordering greater vigilance in the capital and the western region of Xinjiang, they said.

The notice was circulated before the Lunar New Year holidays, which began Jan. 28, the sources said. The holidays ended without incident, but the sources said the alert would remain in force in the run-up to the annual session of Parliament, which starts March 5.

There were also fears of violence around the first anniversary Thursday of separatists riots in Xinjiang, home to members of the Uighur ethnic minority, that official reports said killed nine people and injured 198. (Reuters)

## Lufthansa Bans Smoking

FRANKFURT — Lufthansa said Wednesday that it would ban smoking on all its flights as of March 29.

The German carrier, which said the move

would bring its smoking policy in line with its other Star Alliance partners, said surveys had shown that two-thirds of all passengers prefer nonsmoking flights. (Reuters)

KLM UK, the British regional carrier owned by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, said Wednesday that it would cut some ticket prices by July on flights from London's Stansted Airport and simplify its fare structure, responding to such no-frills carriers as EasyJet Airline. (Bloomberg)

Hong Kong issued a cholera warning Wednesday, advising the public to pay extra attention to food hygiene, especially concerning shellfish, after two elderly men caught the disease. (Reuters)

Avianca has agreed with Aeroflot on a new passenger service from Moscow to South American destinations, the Colombia-based airline reported. (Reuters)

Britain will never switch to driving on the right, Transport Minister Gavin Strong said Wednesday. (Reuters)

## El Niño-Driven Storms Sweep California and Florida

SAN FRANCISCO — Swollen rivers overran their banks, emergency crews struggled to shore up collapsing hillsides, and hundreds of people were evacuated as a storm fueled by El Niño hit California.

One man near Palo Alto, south of San Francisco, was killed Tuesday by a falling tree, and hundreds of others were evacuated as the storm dumped up to 5 inches (13 centimeters) of rain across the area.

The National Weather Service said the storm's ferocity was due in part to this year's powerful El Niño weather pattern, causing a warming of Pacific waters off the coast of

South America and severe storms farther north. Wild weather also hit Florida. The worst storm in five years hit the Miami area on Monday night leaving about 220,000 people without power. One person was reportedly killed in the Florida Keys, while four deaths were reported in Cuba.

Britain will never switch to driving on the right, Transport Minister Gavin Strong said Wednesday. (Reuters)

## WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Resort	Depth L U	Mtn. Pistes	Res. Pistes	Snow Shoe	Last Snow	Comments	Depth L U 23 25	Mtn. Pistes	Res. Pistes	Snow Shoe	Last Snow	Comments	
Andorra	50 85	Good	Open	Ped.	22	Fresh snow and very good skiing	Resort Garmisch	Depth L U 23 25	Mtn. Pistes	Res. Pistes	Snow Shoe	Last Snow	Comments
Austria	50 85	Good	Open	Ped.	22	fresh snow and very good	Italy	25 180	Good	Art	Ped.	181	1417 lbs open and 3320 open
Ischgl	30 140	Good	Art	Ped.	21/1	all lifts open, some chairlifts open	Bormio	25 180	Good	Open	Ped.	251	all 25 lifts open, good
Kitzbuehel	6 100	Good	Open	Ped.	22	all lifts open, good, high, north side	Corvara	25 180	Good	Open	Ver.	251	all 25 lifts open, good, firm snow
Mayrhofen	50 110	Good	Open	Ped.	22	all lifts open, good, north side	Lech	80 145	Good	Hard	Ped.	201	24/24 lifts open, good, firm snow
Oberjurgl	65 170	Good	Closed	Ped.	22	all lifts open, good, north side	Livigno	70 145	Good	Hard	Ped.	181	all 25 lifts open, good, north side
Szellbach	60 120	Good	Hard	Ped.	21/1	all lifts open, good, north side	Selva	50 120	Good	Hard	Ped.	181	all lifts, runs and cable car open
St. Anton	50 200	Good	Art	Ped.	21/1	all 32 lifts open, good, hot snow bed	Switzerland	70 80	Good	Open	Ped.	42	all 18 lifts open, new snow
Lake Louise	70 120	Good	Open	Ped.	21/1	all 11 lifts open, good, snow overall	Crans Montana	40 225	Good	Open	Ver.	21/1	3641 lbs open, pre-opening
Whistler	70 120	Good	Open	Ped.	21/1	all 22 lifts open, good, snow	Davos	70 120	Good	Open	Ped.	221	everything open, good skiing
France	80 200	Good	Open	Ped.	21/1	all 229 lifts open, good skiing	Klosters	25 120	Good	Open	Ped.	221	good skiing, multiple runs: all open
Alpe d'Huez	80 200	Good	Open	Ped.	21/1	all 267 lifts open, good skiing	Murree	80 100	Good	Open	Ped.	221	all 80 lifts open, generally good
Les Arcs	130 270	Good	Open	Ped.	21/1	all 267 lifts open, good skiing	Sainte Foy	80 100	Good	Open	Ped.	201	all 80 lifts open, generally good
Auronaz	130 200	Good	Open	Ped.	21/1	all 267 lifts open, good skiing	St. Moritz	80 90	Good	Open	Ped.	251	all 65 lifts open, good, warm
Chamonix	80 205	Good	Open	Ped.	21/1	all 265 lifts open, good skiing	Verbier	65 140	Good	Open	Ped.	201	all 65 lifts open, good, warm
Les Deux Alpes	80 200	Good</td											

# Airline Agency In U.S. Gets '2000' Warning

By Matthew L. Wald  
New York Times Service

**WASHINGTON** — At its core, the Federal Aviation Administration will not be able to remove all "Year 2000" bugs from its hundreds of critical computer systems before the end of the century, which could delay flights, the General Accounting Office has warned in a new report.

The accounting office faulted the agency's management.

"At its current pace, it will not be in time," the report said. It cited

problems and, among other blunders,

pointing a manager for the project

resigned and has not been replaced.

The FAA uses computers

everywhere from directing planes

to managing and maintaining

inventory of safety and naviga-

tion equipment and scheduling inspec-

tion programs. Many of the computers and com-

puter programs are old and are de-

signed to run on the last two digits

of the year. They may therefore recompute

"00" and assume it means 19

If the problem is not corrected,

potential serious consequences

are likely, increased airline costs and

lower income, said national auditors.

The chairman of the House Avia-

tions Committee's subcom-

mittee on transportation, Representative

Walt. Republicans of Virginia, on

January that the aviation agency de-

livered a more aggressive and sys-

tematic approach to removing these is-

sues in a timely manner."

Saying that the

federal Aviation Administration

had come up short, he said,

"We have to do better for the pe-

ople who travel."

# 'Charlie' Trie, Clinton Fund-Raiser, Is Arrested in Capital

By David Johnston  
New York Times Service

**WASHINGTON** — Yah Lin Trie, a Democratic fund-raiser and long-time Arkansas friend of President Bill Clinton's, has surrendered to federal authorities, months after he fled the United States before the campaign-finance scandals erupted.

Mr. Trie, known to his associates as Charlie, agreed to turn himself in at Dulles International Airport near here after intense weeklong discussions with his lawyers and prosecutors from the Justice Department's campaign-finance team. He had been living in Macau, but traveled to the United States on Tuesday on a flight from Paris, FBI officials said.

His arrest represents a significant advancement in the Justice Department's inquiry.

Not only is he the first defendant to be charged, but, investigators say, his first-hand knowledge of

questionable fund-raising practices could be valuable if he decides to cooperate in the case.

Mr. Trie's arrest came a week after a federal grand jury returned a 15-count felony indictment accusing him and an associate, Antonio Pan, of obstructing justice and arranging illegal contributions to the Democratic National Committee to buy influence with Mr. Clinton and other senior administration officials. Mr. Pan's whereabouts remain unknown, although he was believed to be living overseas.

Federal law enforcement officials said that Mr. Trie, who fled to China when fund-raising irregularities ballooned into a furor, gave himself up without reaching a plea bargain agreement with the government or obtaining any assurance that his surrender would lead to reduced charges or lenient sentencing.

Officials said they hoped to begin negotiations to obtain Mr. Trie's cooperation soon. The Justice

Department is expected to continue unfurling indictments in the next several weeks.

Reid Weingarten, a lawyer for Mr. Trie, said Tuesday night in a statement that Mr. Trie's voluntary return "should put to rest" any questions about whether Mr. Trie was trying to flee justice or was working for a foreign government. Mr. Weingarten said that he expected Mr. Trie would be "fully vindicated."

A few hints of what Mr. Trie might know emerged in last week's indictment. The charges said that Mr. Trie and Mr. Pan contributed large sums of money to the Democratic National Committee under the names of straw donors, or people who secretly were reimbursed in cash after they made contributions.

The indictment said that in an effort to advance their business interests in the United States and overseas, Mr. Trie and Mr. Pan "purchased access to high-level government officials in the United

States by contributing and soliciting contributions to the Democratic National Committee."

Between June 22, 1994, and Aug. 18, 1996, Mr. Trie attended 10 dinners, lunches or coffees with Mr. Clinton, including four at the White House. Mr. Trie attended four events with Vice President Al Gore, one of which was in the White House.

Justice Department officials, who have been under intense pressure to produce results after more than a year of investigation, were delighted with Tuesday's developments. Republicans in Congress, who have hammered the Justice Department over its slow pace, praised Mr. Trie's surrender.

After his arrest, Mr. Trie was immediately taken to appear before Judge Theresa Buchanan in Alexandria, Virginia. He was released on a \$200,000 bond and agreed to relinquish his passport and the deeds to two properties in Little Rock. He was scheduled to be arraigned Thursday morning.

The report will be submitted to the Committee on House Oversight, which will send its recommendation to the House floor. Mr. Dornan contended that voting by noncitizens and illegal aliens caused him to lose the seat by 984 votes to Ms. Sanchez, a Mexican-American businesswoman. (WP)

## POLITICAL NOTES

### Task Force Backs California Winner

**WASHINGTON** — A Republican-led task force will recommend dismissing the complaint that Representative Loretta Sanchez, a California Democrat, won her seat from the Republican incumbent, Robert Dornan, with tainted votes, the first step in ending a vitriolic controversy that has gripped the House for 14 months.

Vernon Ehlers, Republican of Michigan, the task force chairman, said that his investigation showed a "large amount" of voter fraud in the Orange County district, but not enough to vacate the seat or overturn the result.

The report will be submitted to the Committee on House Oversight, which will send its recommendation to the House floor. Mr. Dornan contended that voting by noncitizens and illegal aliens caused him to lose the seat by 984 votes to Ms. Sanchez, a Mexican-American businesswoman. (WP)

### As Bills Pile Up, President Plans New Defense Fund

By Thomas B. Edsall  
Washington Post Service

**WASHINGTON** — President Bill Clinton is planning to set up a new legal-defense fund with a goal of raising at least \$3 million to \$4 million to cover his mounting fees, according to sources.

Confronted with millions of dollars of legal expenses stemming from the Whitewater investigation, the Paula Jones sexual-harassment suit and the allegations over Monica Lewinsky, the Clintons are eager for help to pay the bills.

White House officials are considering placing the Democratic fund raiser Terence McAuliffe at the helm of the new effort. Unlike a previous legal-defense fund that was folded at the end of 1997, there would be no prohibitions governing the new one against accepting donations from corporations, unions or lobbyists. In addition, current plans call for a limit of \$10,000 on the maximum size of contributions, compared with a \$1,000 limit per donor called for by the original defense fund.

Sources said White House officials had planned to announce the new fund last month. But the latest scandal led to a postponement.

The earlier fund suffered damaging publicity when it was disclosed that Yah Lin (Charlie) Trie brought \$460,000 worth of sequentially numbered money orders in a paper bag to the fund headquarters. The money, along with an additional \$180,000 that Mr. Trie had helped raise, was returned. Mr. Trie, who was indicted last week on charges of funneling illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic National Committee, turned himself in to FBI agents Tuesday at Dulles International Airport.

At the time the original fund was closed on Dec. 31, the Clintons' outstanding legal bills totaled \$2,993,396. They have been mounting since.

### Senate Supports Reagan Airport

**WASHINGTON** — The Republican-controlled Senate voted Wednesday, two days before Ronald Reagan's 87th birthday, to rename Washington's National Airport in his honor.

The 76-to-22 vote came after days of talks tinged with partisan politics. House Republicans had been trying since last week to rush the bill to the Senate floor for passage before the former president's birthday. They were stymied by Democrats stung by the Republican refusal to consider renaming the Justice Department after Robert Kennedy, the former senator and attorney general. (AP)

### Quote/Unquote

Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, referring to the administration's bid for \$18 billion more for the International Monetary Fund: "Even if the new restored, the effect... rises to real. If the instability were to spread to the United States will be real. If the instability were to spread to American jobs, American financial markets and our national security could be grave indeed." (Reuters)



Monica Lewinsky hugging her father, Bernard Lewinsky, outside his home in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles after her arrival from Washington.

of them concerned the floor plan of the White House, doors that were kept open, closed or guarded, and the president's "private time."

Meanwhile, in a taped interview on NBC-TV, Vice President Al Gore again stood up for Mr. Clinton. But he responded cautiously when asked about the comment by Hillary Rodham Clinton that a "vast right-wing conspiracy" was working to smear her husband's name. "Well, I respect her opinions and analysis," he said.

Mr. Gore declined to comment on Mr. Starr's role, but said, "There's no question that there have been unprecedented attacks on this president."

The Lewinsky story continued Wednesday to fade from the nation's newspapers and television screens; it was off the front page of The New York Times on Wednesday for the first time since the story broke Jan. 21.

But debate over the case provoked a verbal free-for-all in the normally sedate Maryland House of Delegates. The Washington Post reported.

### Your Guide To 129 Top French Companies

## FRENCH COMPANY HANDBOOK 1997

Herald International Tribune

Published by the International Herald Tribune, the 1997 edition includes detailed profiles of all the companies in the SBF 120 Index.

Each profile includes: head office, CEO, investor relations manager, company background and major activities, shareholders, subsidiaries and holdings in France and internationally, 1992-1996 financial performance, and recent stock-trading history.

Updated annually, the Handbook is indispensable for anyone who needs to know about the leading companies in the world's fourth-largest economy.

SBF 120 INDEX:	ESSOR INTERNATIONAL	SALOMON S.A.
AGOR	EUPRANCE	SANOFI
AGF	EUROPE 1 COMMUNICATION	SCHNEIDER S.A.
ALI LOURDES	EUTOURNNE S.A.	SEBS S.A.
ALIMENTATION	TELEPOLIS MEDIAS	SELENIA
ALCAN TECHNOLOGIES	GAN	SETRA
ATOS	GAZ ET EAUX	SCHISM-HOMSON
ATO-MP	GEOPOLYESTERES	SEDEL
BEDFORD FAIRIE	GRANDPIRE	SITCO
BIC	PHOTOSENSES	SITA
BILL	GTI	SITEL
BILLARD	HEALTH RESPONSE	SOCIETE D'ESSENCHEOL
BORDEAUX	HUBERT	SOCIETE ANONYME DE
BOUTIQUES	GYENNE ET GASCOGNE	TELECOMMUNICATIONS-SAT
CARAVELLE	HARVEY	SOCIETE GENERALE
CARNAVAL	HERMES INTERNATIONAL	SOCIALISATION ALLIANCE
CARREFOUR	LARNAUL	STRAFOR-PACOM
CARTIER	LARVIE	SUEZ
CATERPILLAR	LATHNER	SYNTHELABO
CETYS	LEGEND	TFC
CHATEAUX	LEADER INDUSTRIES	THOMSON-CSF
CLEMENTS FRANCAIS	LORAIN	TOY
CLAIRES	LOMBARD	UAF
CLAIR-MEDITERRANEE	MARIE CLAIRE DES EAUX	UNIBAIL-UDIOR
COLAS	MI-METROPOLIS	VALEO
COMPTAINE	MOULINEX	VALLOURIC
COMPTAINE GRANDE	NATUREX S.A.	WEIR
CRÉDIT AGRICOLE	PARISIENNE TEST	ZODIAC
CREST COTTON-CHEMICAL	PATHE	
CRESTON	PECHINEY	
CRESTON RICHARD	PERIGORD	
DE BRUYERE	PIRELLAGE	
DE FRANCE	PLASTIC OMNIM	
CRESTON LYONNAIS	PROMOCAL	
DANONE	REKEX	
DASSY SYSTEMIQUE	RENAULT	
DE DIETRICH	REPSOL	
DECHEMENT	RETI	
DEFFA	RIFEX	
DEFFA AUTOMOBILE	RHÔNE-POULENC	
DEG	SAEM	
DEIDRA BECHIN-EAT	SAINTE-COBAIN	

### PLUS THESE COMPANIES:

AEROPORTS DE PARIS-AOR
CAISSE DES DEPOTS ET CONSERVATIONS
CEGETEL
CNP ASSURANCES
COLEXANT STEEL OFFSHORE
COLOGNE
ELATRONIC
FRANCE TELECOM
GAZ DE FRANCE
METALURGIP

Return your order to International Herald Tribune Offers, 37 Lambton Road, London SW20 0LW, England.

Please faster service, fax order to: (44-181) 944-8243

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of French Company Handbook 1997 at UK £50 (US\$85) per copy, including postage in Europe. Three or more copies, 20% reduction.

Outside Europe, postage per copy. North America/Middle East £3.50

Rear of world £6.

Please charge to my credit card:

Access  Amex  Diners  Eurocard  MasterCard  Visa

(Payment by check in pounds Sterling only to the order of Paul Baker Publishing Ltd.)

CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

necessary to credit card purchases!

NAME (in block letters) \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_



*Beijing Says  
U.S. Needs  
To Update Its  
View of China*

*BEIJING — Prime Minister Li Peng has mocked what he called ignorant U.S. senators whose views of China came from old films and novels.*

*He also criticized the Western media for faking the news, and impounded scorn on U.S. bogies to have the world's greatest democracy "in the mind of some U.S. senators we have spoken with. China's old movies or novels, and they know very little about the present China, or what they have learned facts," Mr. Li said.*

*The attack by Mr. Li, 69, who will step down next month after five-year terms as prime minister, appeared to be a parting shot at Western critics who identify him with anti-government activists around Tiananmen Square.*

*The interview was planned to English-language China Information Bulletin and carried by the official Xinhua press agency.*

*But Mr. Li failed the recent warming of Chinese-U.S. ties, symbolized by President Jiang Zemin's meeting in October with President Bill Clinton in Washington.*

*He urged more contacts to bridge gaps in understanding — even while insisting that the United States was largely to blame for the gap. "China has much more knowledge about the United States than the United States does about us," Mr. Li said. "Only after they had been to China and seen U.S. senators that they can have a different view — and they had a better understanding of our country."*

*Mr. Li, 69, has spent decades in politics, starting as a*

*judge. China has a unitary political system with no checks and balances. We have to change," he said.*

*As a result, he said, the country's political system is not as well developed as ours; it is not as stable.*

*Still, he said, their standards, including human rights standards, are on the way to being transformed.*

*He quoted another member of the United Nations Security Council as saying that China has a "good record" in human rights.*

*"The Chinese people are direct descendants of the West, but basically the two sides are very different," Mr. Li said.*

*He added that the West would accept the Chinese as a competitor, but not as a partner.*

*And as memories of the Communist era recede, some Romanians are beginning to suggest that it would be better to keep the files closed and to look to the future instead.*

*The Securitate, as the secret police were known here, had numerous members and were well equipped. They are believed to have left behind plenty of evidence of citizens' spying on their fellow citizens during the more than two-decade rule of Nicolae Ceausescu.*

*The author of the draft legislation is Constantin Tici Dumitrescu, a member of the Senate who was jailed for 11*

## U.S. and European Allies Split on Use of Land Mines on NATO Soil

By Joseph Fitchett  
*International Herald Tribune*

**BRUSSELS** — The politically charged issue of land mines is again dividing Washington from its European allies, this time as a dispute over whether U.S. troops can keep their mines with them on the soil of North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries that recently signed a treaty banning such weapons.

"It is a problem — solvable I think — but it's going to take time, and there could be some unexpected jolts in the process," a U.S. official said Wednesday.

So far, quiet diplomacy has failed to clear up what seems to be a contradiction between NATO defense arrangements and the anti-mine treaty. Of the 16 NATO nations, only the United States and Turkey declined to sign. Washington said its responsibilities in defending South Korea along the demilitarized zone conflicted with the treaty.

Now those same military responsibilities have re-emerged for U.S. forces in Europe. "It's the law of unintended consequences in hasty arms control deals," said an official from Canada, a NATO member whose government spearheaded the treaty negotiations, including a final whirlwind of bargaining that led more than 100 countries to sign up.

Canada has said that it would override its obligations in the treaty to cooperate with the United States or any other NATO ally in the event of war, but U.S. officials argued that a combat situation is too late to deal with a ban that already affects exercises, joint training — even computer war games among allies.

Ironically, one of the governments most opposed to mines is Norway, a country that depends on U.S. mines and troops in its plans to defend the thinly populated north that borders on Russia.

Officials in Oslo, where the treaty banning mines was signed in September, say that they feel strong domestic pressure to apply its prohibitions against owning or stocking anti-personnel mines. As a result, there have been calls in Congress for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and prepositioned weaponry from any ally that refuses to accept the mines.

From the U.S. standpoint, the problem stems from differing definitions and technological standards about the anti-personnel mines. The international out-

cry about land mines concerns small, light, hard to spot devices that often have evil half-lives. Left behind by guerrillas or Third World armies, these mines go off when walked on by an unsuspecting farmer or a child, even years later.

Not considered in the treaty were anti-tank mines: heavy devices that require tons of pressure to detonate. But the most advanced U.S. anti-tank mines were considered, exceptionally, to be banned by the treaty because the big central device, when deployed, is surrounded by small devices to keep enemy soldiers from approaching.

The main such weapon, known as a Gator and delivered by air from F-16 fighter-bombers, consists of a canister containing 72 anti-tank mines with 22 anti-personnel mines designed to be set off by the anti-tank mines. On the ground, they are grouped, usually in a pattern about 100 yards long, with trip wires connecting all 94 elements.

As a result, the U.S. mines are considered anti-personnel mines. European armies also have a system of protecting their anti-tank mines: they attach booby traps to the mines. Because the American explosives are not attached to the main mine, they are considered anti-personnel.

The obvious question — why not change U.S. mines? — gets a ready response from American officials. "There's a reason that they're different: because we are better at it," said Robert Bell, the leading arms specialist on the National Security Council, in discussing the U.S. position at Oslo.

A good sapper, he said, needs only two minutes with a long pole to dislodge booby traps so that enemy infantrymen can carry away a European anti-tank mine. It usually takes at least 20 minutes to clear a path to a U.S. anti-tank mine protected by a wider defensive system.

"That 18 minutes is the difference between life and death," Mr. Bell said. "Imagine the Gulf War," Mr. Bell said. "Imagine General McCaffrey's 24th Mechanized Division with a left hook into Iraq. He's out there with no protection on his flanks, maneuvering. And you see an enemy force coming in on his flank. You pick up the phone, call in an air strike. The aircraft comes over and drops this canister in front of the Republican Guard unit that's threatening his flank and puts down this field of

anti-tank mines with their protective munitions as part of it."

That concept would apply anywhere else where U.S. forces operate against the threat of enemy armor: renewed hostilities with Iraq, peacekeeping in Bosnia, any other contingency such as a Russian attack into Norway, where U.S. airborne forces would expect to use equipment, including land mines, stored in Norway.

U.S. land mines are also stored in other allied countries, including Britain, Germany and Italy. All of them have potential problems with the mines because they have signed the treaty. Turkey, with its long frontier with Russia, was the only NATO country that joined the United States in insisting that it would only sign a treaty that recognized the special features of U.S. anti-tank mines — and the associated anti-personnel mines.

In contrast to the mines that have done so much harm to civilians in countries like Bosnia and Cambodia, U.S. land mines are self-destructing and self-deactivating. Laid in zones where civilians would be careful, the mines are set to blow up at a pre-set time — usually after 48 hours. In tests involving 32,000 mines, only one failed to blow up on time, detonating an hour late. As a last resort, their batteries die after 90 days, leaving the mines harmless.

Despite these safeguards, other governments refused to allow an exemption for U.S. mines when putting the finishing touches on the treaty in Oslo.

"They wanted a smooth product so they were reluctant to crack open a door for exceptions," according to an American official involved in final negotiations.

So far, a similar stand-off prevails in NATO. Officials at alliance headquarters outlined procedural tactics on Wednesday that they said might bury the issue long enough to defuse the quarrel.

"We think that there's no real incompatibility here," said a diplomat from Canada.

Germany has put forward a compromise under which the problem would be referred to a NATO ministerial council — which would immediately send it back to committees for further study.

"In any case, Bonn can say that U.S. mines do not belong to Germany, so it's no problem for us," a German diplomat said.



Jody Williams, center right, posing with South Korean soldiers while visiting the Demilitarized Zone. The Nobel Peace Prize winner is on a four-day trip to Korea in connection with her campaign opposing land mines. The Associated Press

### BRIEFLY

#### Political Crisis in Slovakia

**BRATISLAVA, Slovakia** — The Slovak president, Michal Kovac, used his last speech to Parliament to accuse Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's government on Wednesday of being undemocratic.

The European Union, NATO and the United States have all rebuked the formerly Communist Slovakia for failing to respect democracy and the rule of law, and the president said their criticism was fair.

The president, whose term ends March 2, was particularly scathing about the government's refusal to abide by rulings from the constitutional court with which it disagrees.

The parliamentary opposition — along with Mr. Kovac, who is a political enemy of Mr. Meciar — attempted in a referendum last year to change the method of electing a president to a direct vote of the people.

However, in a move that prompted sharp criticism from the EU and condemnation from the constitutional court, the government unilaterally withdrew the question on the presidency from the ballot. (Reuters)

#### London Lectures Last Colonies

**LONDON** — Britain told its remaining colonies Wednesday to take urgent steps to stamp out money laundering and ensure their financial service regulators were truly independent.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook also said Britain was looking sympathetically at the possibility of granting full citizenship to 160,000 citizens of its scattered so-called dependent territories, all that remain of a once-mighty empire.

In an indication of possible trouble ahead, the territories voiced apprehension after Mr. Cook insisted they bring their laws into line with Britain's international human rights obligations and urged those that still imposed the death penalty to consider abolishing it. (Reuters)

#### Bosnia Muslims Spurn Request

**SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina** — Muslim leaders in Bosnia have spurned a demand by Western aid donors that they unconditionally promote the return to Sarajevo of thousands of Croats and Serbs who fled during the three and a half year Bosnian war.

Ajla Izetbegovic, a wartime Bosnian leader who is now chairman of the country's three-man presidency, said he would not accept the demand unless the United States and its allies insisted that Bosnia's Serb Republic make a similar commitment to accept Muslim and Croatian refugees within the same period.

Western officials called this condition unreasonable, arguing that the Serb Republic's new government is not yet strong enough to make such a pledge. (WP)

#### French Rightists Protest Ruling

**PARIS** — The extreme-right National Front denounced a French official's decision Wednesday to block a controversial cash bonus restricted to children born to French or European Union parents in the southern town of Vitrolles.

The decision by the prefect in the southern Bouches du Rhone department "is in reality the Sociale-Communist government showing its true face — one of scorn for the French people," the National Front deputy leader, Bruno Megret, said in a statement. The Front announced last month that Vitrolles would pay a bonus of 5,000 francs (\$825) for every child born in the town to citizens of France or another European Union state. (Reuters)

## Romanians Wary of Opening Files

By Jane Perlez  
*New York Times Service*

**BUCHAREST** — When a centrist government was elected here more than a year ago, there was considerable enthusiasm for opening up the secret police files kept by the Communist government that was overthrown in 1989.

But as the case elsewhere in the former Communist bloc, revealing the dirty secrets of the past has proved complicated.

Draft legislation designed to give access to the files is a long way from being passed as the public and politicians debate who should have access to what.

And as memories of the Communist era recede, some Romanians are beginning to suggest that it would be better to keep the files closed and to look to the future instead.

The Securitate, as the secret police were known here, had numerous members and were well equipped. They are believed to have left behind plenty of evidence of citizens' spying on their fellow citizens during the more than two-decade rule of Nicolae Ceausescu.

The author of the draft legislation is Constantin Tici Dumitrescu, a member of the Senate who was jailed for 11

years by the Communists for his role as a member of the opposition National Peasants' Party. He wants people to have wide-ranging access to the files. Mr. Dumitrescu has said that to know who is who in today's society, people should be able to examine any file they want.

But others in the Peasants' Party, which forms the core of the government of Prime Minister Viktor Ciobea, believe that to prevent public recriminations, individuals should be allowed to look only at their own files.

The files of candidates running for office also should be made public so voters can assess their past, she said.

Even before legislation is passed, some dissidents have persisted in trying to get access to their files. So far, they have been given only glimpses.

Gabriel Andreescu, a member of the Helsinki Committee who was imprisoned under the Ceausescu government, says his files in 1996 after years of seeking them from the military prosecutor's office.

But when they were presented to him, they appeared to have been thinned out.

In another case, a mayoral candidate in 1996 for one of Romania's provincial capitals announced that he had served as an informant for the Securitate under communism.

Voters said they regarded him as a competent manager and respected him for his honesty, and he won the election.

They blocked the opening of the files and in some cases appear to have helped tamper with the files or destroy them. A substantial cache of secret police files was found dumped in the countryside in the early 1990s.

Manuela Stefanescu, a lawyer who is co-chairman of the Helsinki Committee in Romania, a human rights group, said many of the files had been tampered with since 1989 to protect or

destroy reputations. Thus, it would be reckless, she said, to allow the wholesale opening of the files that Mr. Dumitrescu proposes. Such a move could lead to false accusations against innocent people, she said.

It is important, Miss Stefanescu said, that access be given so that individuals can examine their own dossiers — but not those of others.

The files of candidates running for office also should be made public so voters can assess their past, she said.

Even before legislation is passed, some dissidents have persisted in trying to get access to their files. So far, they have been given only glimpses.

Gabriel Andreescu, a member of the Helsinki Committee who was imprisoned under the Ceausescu government, says his files in 1996 after years of seeking them from the military prosecutor's office.

But when they were presented to him, they appeared to have been thinned out.

In another case, a mayoral candidate in 1996 for one of Romania's provincial capitals announced that he had served as an informant for the Securitate under communism.

Voters said they regarded him as a competent manager and respected him for his honesty, and he won the election.

They blocked the opening of the files and in some cases appear to have helped tamper with the files or destroy them. A substantial cache of secret police files was found dumped in the countryside in the early 1990s.

Manuela Stefanescu, a lawyer who is co-chairman of the Helsinki Committee in Romania, a human rights group, said many of the files had been tampered with since 1989 to protect or

destroy reputations. Thus, it would be reckless, she said, to allow the wholesale opening of the files that Mr. Dumitrescu proposes. Such a move could lead to false accusations against innocent people, she said.

It is important, Miss Stefanescu said, that access be given so that individuals can examine their own dossiers — but not those of others.

The files of candidates running for office also should be made public so voters can assess their past, she said.

Even before legislation is passed, some dissidents have persisted in trying to get access to their files. So far, they have been given only glimpses.

Gabriel Andreescu, a member of the Helsinki Committee who was imprisoned under the Ceausescu government, says his files in 1996 after years of seeking them from the military prosecutor's office.

But when they were presented to him, they appeared to have been thinned out.

In another case, a mayoral candidate in 1996 for one of Romania's provincial capitals announced that he had served as an informant for the Securitate under communism.

Voters said they regarded him as a competent manager and respected him for his honesty, and he won the election.

They blocked the opening of the files and in some cases appear to have helped tamper with the files or destroy them. A substantial cache of secret police files was found dumped in the countryside in the early 1990s.

Manuela Stefanescu, a lawyer who is co-chairman of the Helsinki Committee in Romania, a human rights group, said many of the files had been tampered with since 1989 to protect or

destroy reputations. Thus, it would be reckless, she said, to allow the wholesale opening of the files that Mr. Dumitrescu proposes. Such a move could lead to false accusations against innocent people, she said.

It is important, Miss Stefanescu said, that access be given so that individuals can examine their own dossiers — but not those of others.

The files of candidates running for office also should be made public so voters can assess their past, she said.

## INTERNATIONAL

## U.S. Urged To Lay Off Iraq During Olympics

By Jere Longman  
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — Amid speculation that the United States might attack Iraq soon, International Olympic officials have repeated appeals for nations to avoid military confrontation during the Nagano Games, which begin on Saturday.

While stressing that they were not trying to influence U.S. foreign policy, the officials said they hoped that the United States and other countries that have signed a United Nations resolution pledging peace during the Winter and Summer Olympics would adhere to their pledges. The resolution, signed by 178 countries, is generally known as the Olympic truce.

The IOC has no comment to make regarding the way the United States of America makes its decisions, "Francois Carrard, the International Olympic Committee director-general, said. "We simply hope that, like all signatories to the Olympic truce, they will follow it."

Anita DeFrantz of the United States, the first woman elected as a vice president of the IOC, said she had been working back channels to remind the White House that it has resolved to comply with the Olympic truce.

"I just wanted to make sure they know about it; they do," Ms. DeFrantz said. "I'm confident that it will play some part, maybe a small part, in the decision-making process."

But Ms. DeFrantz, a former Olympic rower, also acknowledged that military conflicts have occurred during past Olympic Games. The Bosnian conflict, for example, continued during the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

Conflict has followed the Olympic movement. The 1968 Mexico City Games were preceded by student uprisings that led to deaths. The 1972 Munich Olympics were disrupted by Arab terrorists. The United States boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and Soviet-bloc countries retaliated with a boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

The State Department said this week that it respected Olympic appeals for peace. But it refused to guarantee that the United States would not launch an attack during the 16-day run of the Nagano Games.



Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Sahhaf of Iraq, center, welcoming his Turkish counterpart, Ismail Cem, right, to Baghdad on Wednesday. Mr. Cem was to discuss Iraq's dispute with the UN over weapons inspectors.

### BAGHDAD: Hard Time for Books, but Some Arts Still Carry On

Continued from Page 1

In the absence of foreign films, a casualty of the embargo that was imposed on Iraq until it is free of weapons of mass destruction, there has been a burst of energy in the Iraqi cinema, though films are limited thematically and produced on low budgets.

Romance and high-intensity explorations of personal relationships mark both films and contemporary short stories, intellectuals say.

Figurative painting and natural subjects, sometimes fuzzily romantic but rarely propagandistic, dominate contemporary art in the galleries and museums.

History, viewed from a safe distance, is also preoccupying filmmakers. A veritable genre is developing around the life

and death of King Ghazi, the second in a line of monarchs who ruled Iraq from 1920 to 1938.

The king, who died in a car crash in 1939 after only six years on the throne, is being portrayed as a "people's king," Iraqis say. Currently accepted thinking is that he was the victim of an assassination, not an accident, and that the British were to blame.

Britain ruled Iraq under a mandate for a few years after World War I, when the Ottoman Empire was dismantled and Iraq became independent again after four centuries. The nationalistic uprising that soon erupted against British rule is another cinematic theme in the 1990s.

Anti-British themes are safe because they are not out of line with government thinking, now that Britain and the United

States are seen as common enemies of Iraq. But the fascination with King Ghazi may represent more than this. Mr. Saddam likes to think of himself in royal terms, and what better model for a modern monarch than a people's king? It is not a subject Iraqi intellectuals are free to discuss. An American visiting Iraq expecting to hear a great deal about the 1991 Gulf War is frequently startled by the relative lack of passion about that conflict and the intensity with which Iraqis recall the war before that one, the 1980-1988 war with Iran.

Stories, poetry and films relieve the war, allowing fiction to follow reality.

"There is not a family in this country that was not touched by that war, that terrible war," a writer said. "It affected all of us psychologically."

Setting the stage for the nonbinding Senate resolution authorizing U.S. use of force, the majority leader, Trent Lott, said, "If we're going to do this, let's go all the way."

The Mississippi Republican's counterpart in the House, Richard Armey, a Republican from Texas, said Tuesday that Mr. Saddam was "a dangerous person that should not be allowed to have these kinds of weapons, and we will support any effort we can to provide the world with a greater security from that threat."

Going further publicly than administration officials had, the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, said that any U.S. military attack must succeed in getting Mr. Saddam to accept unlimited inspections or else "we will have to replace him with a regime that will agree to end this kind of program" to build weapons of mass destruction.

In complaining about U.S. rhetoric earlier in the day, Mr. Yeltsin may have been seeking to mollify the Russian Parliament, which has been critical of U.S. determination to root out Iraqi weapons programs. In his reported remarks, Mr. Yeltsin accused Mr. Clinton of "acting too brazenly" in Iraq.

"One must be more careful in this world, saturated with all sorts of weapons which are sometimes in terrorists' hands," the Russian leader reportedly said. Instead, he added, some people are saying, "let's flood the place with planes and bombs" — frankly speaking, that's not like Clinton at all.

But even after Mr. Yeltsin's remarks

### IRAQ: Momentum for a Military Strike

Continued from Page 1

there was no alternative to forcing Baghdad's hand, Congress responded strongly to a warning by Defense Secretary William Cohen that the United States was prepared to wage a "significant" military campaign against Iraq.

"It would be far more than what has been experienced in the past, certainly since the Persian Gulf war," Mr. Cohen said Tuesday in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee. Key committee members called for decisive action if Baghdad remained defiant.

Setting the stage for the nonbinding Senate resolution authorizing U.S. use of force, the majority leader, Trent Lott, said, "If we're going to do this, let's go all the way."

The Mississippi Republican's counterpart in the House, Richard Armey, a Republican from Texas, said Tuesday that Mr. Saddam was "a dangerous person that should not be allowed to have these kinds of weapons, and we will support any effort we can to provide the world with a greater security from that threat."

Going further publicly than administration officials had, the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, said that any U.S. military attack must succeed in getting Mr. Saddam to accept unlimited inspections or else "we will have to replace him with a regime that will agree to end this kind of program" to build weapons of mass destruction.

In complaining about U.S. rhetoric earlier in the day, Mr. Yeltsin may have been seeking to mollify the Russian Parliament, which has been critical of U.S. determination to root out Iraqi weapons programs. In his reported remarks, Mr. Yeltsin accused Mr. Clinton of "acting too brazenly" in Iraq.

"One must be more careful in this world, saturated with all sorts of weapons which are sometimes in terrorists' hands," the Russian leader reportedly said. Instead, he added, some people are saying, "let's flood the place with planes and bombs" — frankly speaking, that's not like Clinton at all.

But even after Mr. Yeltsin's remarks

were declared inoperative, Moscow, together with Paris, insisted Wednesday that a diplomatic outcome was certainly preferable and still possible.

A French official said that if Baghdad had been coaxed into making initial concessions, that might be an opening wedge toward a political deal that provided full access to UN inspectors. Hubert Vedrine, the foreign minister, voiced serious doubts over the usefulness of military strike against Iraq, warning that Mr. Saddam might be able to "exploit such an attack to rally public opinion to his side."

He told the French Senate there would be a shock wave in the Arab world if Washington used military force "at the very moment when the international community, especially the United States, has been shown to be powerless to break the deadlock in the peace process between the Israelis and the Palestinians."

His remarks were played down by U.S. diplomats, who said that Mr. Vedrine was placating pro-Iraqi and anti-American lobbies in France. In private, they said, the French government had indicated much greater readiness to back a military strike if Baghdad continued stonewalling at UN inspections.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived back in Washington on Wednesday after a weekend trip to capitals in Europe and the Middle East on which she appeared to convince most U.S. allies that military force would probably have to be used against Baghdad. Despite low-key public statements by Arab officials, Ms. Albright was said by diplomats to have gained private promises from Saudi Arabia and other key Arab countries to support U.S. actions.

Arab leaders were publicly cautious Wednesday about the value of the reported Iraqi concessions, and Turkey, which last week said that its military bases could not be used for U.S. air strikes, sounded more supportive of Washington. Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said Wednesday in Ankara: "If Iraq does not heed our warning, a U.S. operation to enforce UN resolutions will have some sort of justification."

### Israel Would Strike Back, Paper Says

The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to assure the United States that Israel would not retaliate to a possible Iraqi attack, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's request for restraint came in a weekend meeting with the Israeli leader, the Ha'aretz daily said.

Mr. Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan, said Mrs. Albright requested that Israel "keep a low profile

verbally," but that he didn't believe a request was made not to retaliate in case of an attack.

In the 1991 Gulf War, Israel heeded a U.S. request not to respond to Scud missiles Iraq fired at the Jewish state. However, in the current crisis Israeli leaders have suggested there would be a response to an Iraqi attack.

Mr. Netanyahu said Tuesday that the Iraqi threat had been exaggerated, but said: "We will do whatever necessary to protect our citizens."

### Roger Stevens, 87, Arts Champion, Dies

By Bart Barnes  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Roger L. Stevens, founding chairman of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts who orchestrated its transformation from dream to reality, died Monday night here of complications related to pneumonia. He was 87.

He suffered two partly paralyzing strokes in 1993.

Mr. Stevens served 27 years as chairman of the Kennedy Center's board of trustees and in that capacity is said to have raised \$150 million from a reluctant and skeptical Congress, corporate benefactors and individual donors for the center's construction, operation and endowment.

He was appointed in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy as board chairman of what was then the National Cultural Center. But no national facility for the performing arts existed yet in Washington. For the next 10 years, Mr. Stevens guided and coaxed the project to fruition. In 1971, the Kennedy Center, named for the slain president at Mr. Stevens's suggestion, opened with the world premiere of Leonard Bernstein's "Mass."

Since then, thousands of the world's leading musicians, actors and dancers and its finest artistic ensembles have performed on the Kennedy Center stages, bringing to Washington a cultural explosion that helped dispel its image as a city of "dead monuments and a dull bureaucracy." The producer David Merrick called the center "the most successful cultural facility in the world."

Although best known for his work at the Kennedy Center, Mr. Stevens also played a pivotal role in persuading Congress to pass legislation establishing the National Endowment for the Arts, which represented the federal government's first attempt to become a national arts patron. He then served as the endowment's first chairman. During the administration of Lyndon B. Johnson, he also was special assistant to the president for the arts.

Before starting his career at the Kennedy Center, Mr. Stevens had made a fortune in the business world. He was a real estate broker and a resourceful investor, specializing in hotels and office buildings. In that capacity, he was widely

known as a smooth and able negotiator, with a riverboat gambler's love for risky, high-stakes deals and an extraordinary skill for working out the most complex agreements. In 1951, he put together a syndicate that purchased the Empire State Building in New York for what was then a record \$51.5 million.

He also had produced more than 250 plays and musicals, including "West Side Story," "Annie," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Tea and Sympathy," "A Man for All Seasons" and "Bus Stop."

Politically, Mr. Stevens had been a finance chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and he also had raised money for the presidential campaigns of Adlai Stevenson.

Dorothy Hart Hirshon, 89, Society Figure and Activist

NEW YORK — Dorothy Hart Hirshon, a glamorous figure in New York society from the 1920s through the '40s who later became active in social, human rights and political causes, died Jan. 29 in an automobile accident while driving near her home on Long Island. She was 89.

Frequently photographed and written about during her glittering earlier marriages to John Randolph Hearst and William S. Paley, she married Walter Hirshon, a stockbroker, in 1953. After their divorce in 1961, she became increasingly involved in education and philanthropic endeavors.

Dorothy Hart was 19 when she met her first husband, the third of William Randolph Hearst's five sons, while sailing on a yacht off Santa Barbara, California. The groom dropped out of college after his freshman year and joined Hearst Corp., and the young couple became regulars in the cafe society of the period.

Mrs. Hearst met Mr. Paley, head of the Columbia Broadcasting System, in 1931. After some months, she filed for a divorce, and in May 1932, she married Mr. Paley.

David Patrick Columbia wrote in Quest magazine in 1993: "They were the golden couple on the town. She became his Pygmalion. His hunger to know satisfied her trenchant desire to teach. He had the instincts, but she, despite her youth, had the instincts and the knowledge. She began transforming his life."

### CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Pitcher Reynolds of the 1950s Yankees

2 See 6-Down

10 Bill honoree

15 Ramble

16 Pop singer Brinkell

17 I.R.S.

20 Caen's river

21 Fishing device

22 Desert meccas

23 Places for some coaches

25 Film director's cry

26 Like "ika," nowadays

28 Scarab family member

31 Hiss in history

34 God

35 Head of a simile

37 Fire-side reading?

39 Man Curie, e.g.: Abb.

41 Lucy Ricardo's pal

44 Carpenter's sweepings

47 Diluted

48 Bonanza find

49 Modia's asset

51 Chesterfields

52 Shed

53 Duster

55 Music at the piano

58 Checkup?

61 It's to dye with

62 Study & its studs

64 Hornswall bedding

65 Eaten up

66 Forward

67 Handling

10 Orthopedist's last name

11 What "—ence" forms

24 The Grinch was one

25 Smoke, perhaps

26 Emre of "Dynasty"

27 Wool source

28 Resigner of 10/07/93

29 Canada Day starts it

31 Immense

33 Worker at plays

34 With festiveness

34 "P.D.Q. doc"

35 Darling

**Military Strike**

declared inoperative. Moscow, with Paris, insisted Wedge was still possible.

A French official said that if Bagdad were coaxed into making initial moves toward a political deal, it would full access to UN inspectors.

The French foreign minister said that might be an option.

Under Vedrine, the foreign ministry had serious doubts over the usefulness of a military strike against Iraq.

But Mr. Saddam might be willing to attack to rally his supporters to his side.

He told the French Senate there was a "shock wave" in the Arab world.

Washington used military force at the moment when the international community, especially the United States, has been shown to be powerless to stop deadlock in the peace process between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Remarks were placed down by diplomats, who said they were placating pro-Iraqi and anti-American lobbies in France. In private, however, the French government indicated much greater readiness to support a military strike by Baghdad than on UN inspections.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was in Washington on Wednesday after a weekend trip to Europe and the Middle East.

She appeared to convince most U.S. that military force would probably be used against Baghdad.

Low-key public statements by officials, Ms. Albright was said to have gained private support from Saudi Arabia and other key countries to support U.S. actions.

Arab leaders were publicly case yesterday about the value of the peace process.

They have said that its time could not be used for U.S.

Yasser Arafat, Prime Minister Meir

and Wednesday in Ankara, "It does not bind our warning, the U.S. action to enforce UN resolutions is some sort of justification."

## Verdict of Europeans: Execution Is Barbaric

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

**NEW YORK** — The execution of Karla Faye Tucker in Texas created a wrenching debate in the United States, but in many European countries the verdict was nearly unanimous: The American death penalty is barbaric.

The sentiment was particularly strong in predominantly Roman Catholic countries, echoing the concerns of Pope John Paul II, who urged Governor George Bush to offer clemency to Ms. Tucker.

But in Asia, Ms. Tucker won less sympathy. "She stole a life, and they were right in executing her," Yukio

Fukui, a 27-year-old construction worker in Tokyo, said Wednesday.

While the death penalty has been banned in many European countries, it is still widely accepted in much of Asia. China, for one, puts more people to death than the rest of the world combined: 24,367 in 1996.

But the Tucker case created shock in Europe. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican's chief spokesman, said, "It is always the same principle: Only God is the Lord of life and death."

Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who heads Italy's center-left coalition, said,

### TEXAS: Woman Is Executed Despite Pleas

Continued from Page 1

eligible for parole in 2003 had the board agreed, had asked that she be given life in prison without the possibility of release, but there is no such sentence in Texas, and board members said they could not make a special case of Ms. Tucker.

After the board's ruling, Ms. Tucker's only hopes were with the U.S. Supreme Court, which turned down two appeals without comment Tuesday afternoon, and Governor George Bush, who, under the law, could grant her only one 30-day stay. But here in Texas, the national leader in executions with one in every three that occurs, governors have seldom intervened in death-penalty cases and Mr. Bush was no exception.

"May God bless Karla Faye Tucker and may God bless her victims and their families," Mr. Bush said after declining to grant the stay.

### SILVER: Buffett Reveals a Huge Hoard

Continued from Page 1

Because silver now sells for less than one-seventh of what it cost at the peak.

The buying, which began last July, helped to push up silver prices even as gold prices weakened. And because a large part of the silver Berkshire has bought has not been delivered, the announcement raised the possibility that some speculators will be unable to come up with the silver that Berkshire is owed.

Berkshire said it would make accommodations if such problems occurred.

The company said it began buying silver July 25, when the near-term silver futures contract closed at \$4.32 an ounce, and made its last purchase Jan. 12, when the price closed at \$5.475 an ounce.

On Tuesday, the current silver futures contract, requiring silver delivery in March, closed at \$6.615 an ounce, up 16.7 cents an ounce for the day and 53 percent higher than when Berkshire began buying the metal.

That was the highest price for the metal in nine years and came even though Mr. Buffett made his announcement after the end of trading for the day.

The futures contract for March delivery was at \$7.020 an ounce in afternoon trading Wednesday in New York.

Mr. Buffett has gained fame over the decades for his willingness to make large purchases of stocks he deems to be undervalued and then hold on to them. But this appears to be his first big purchase of commodity that — unlike stocks that pay dividends — will produce no cash income for Berkshire until it is sold.

The word that so much silver had been accumulated inevitably recalled memory of the silver accumulation by the Texas oilman Nelson Bunker Hunt. Purchases by Mr. Hunt and his family sent the price of the metal briefly above \$50 an ounce in 1980 before the market plunged, leading to financial distress for the Hunt family, which had borrowed heavily to finance the purchases.

At the peak according to statements by Paul Volcker — then the Federal Reserve Board chairman and a man intimately involved with efforts to bail out the Hunts after the price collapsed — the Hunts controlled about 110 million ounces of silver. At the time, Mr. Volcker said, there were about 170 million ounces of silver available.

Now, the market appears to be far larger. Reuters quoted one consulting firm, CPM Group, as saying that Berkshire's stake amounted to about 20 percent of the silver market.

When the Hunts were accumulating their position, they and many investors believed that there was no way inflation could be checked and that prices of hard assets such as precious metals could only continue to rise.

Now, the opposite consensus prevails, with inflation deemed to be quiet and likely to stay that way and many investors fearful that Asia's troubles will lead to deflation. Silver has aspects of both a precious metal, viewed by some as a storehouse of value, and an industrial one, used in a variety of industries. So while its price could rise in the absence of general inflation, a significant increase would be more likely if inflation were rising.

In a statement released by the company after markets closed Tuesday, Mr. Buffett said he first purchased silver more than 30 years ago, after the U.S. government stopped making silver coins and stopped backing dollar bills with the metal. But he said that in recent years his company had

"I am totally against the death penalty." And, in a rare sign of unity, the country's left and right spoke the same language. An editorial in the leftist newspaper L'Unità even described Ms. Tucker as "a sort of Mother Theresa for drug addicts in jail."

The impending execution was big news in Spain, too. La Vanguardia, a major daily newspaper in Barcelona, splashed an article and color photograph of Ms. Tucker on the front page. On Page 19, there was a graphic of a death chamber with the headline: "Four Minutes to Die."

And when asked about the case, the Spanish justice minister, Margarita Mariscal de Gante, told the national radio network SER on Tuesday, "Intellectually and morally, I am absolutely opposed to the death penalty."

In Dublin, The Irish Times ran a large color photograph of Ms. Tucker looking toward the heavens. Then in a dig at the United States, the newspaper said in an editorial that the death penalty "does not sit comfortably with the annual survey of human rights provisions around the world published by the U.S. State Department."

(NYT, AP)



Mothers of some who vanished during Luis Echeverria's presidency, protesting as he testified on the 1968 massacre of students.

## Mexico Congress Looks Into Massacre of 1968

Ex-President Testifies, but Sheds No Light

By Mary Beth Sheridan  
and Robert Randolph  
*Los Angeles Times*

**MEXICO CITY** — For the first time in modern Mexican history, a former president has testified before a congressional committee, as legislators plunged into an investigation of one of this country's most painful events: the army massacre of student protesters in 1968.

Former President Luis Echeverria, 76, was asked to clarify the mystery surrounding the military attack — an assault that started the gradual decline of Mexico's one-party state. Mr. Echeverria was interior minister at the time.

Despite the powerful symbolism of a president being questioned, critics noted that the investigating committee has limited powers and cannot subpoena witnesses or offer immunity for testimony. Some questioned whether the truth would ever emerge.

"This will serve to keep the theme in the media, and ratify its historical importance," said Carlos Monsivais, a noted social critic. "I don't think it will serve for much more."

"This is very important for history," said Armando Lopez, a member of the congressional committee, as he shook the former president's hand before the hearing.

It was a striking reversal of roles: Mr. Lopez told reporters he had been a student demonstrator in the Mexico City plaza on the night of the massacre.

While many books and articles have been written about the massacre, the government has divvied up details about its actions.

What is known is this: On the evening of Oct. 2, 1968, shortly before the Olympic Games opened here, the Mexican Army and riot police opened fire on thousands of students who had stormed the historic Plaza of Three Cultures to demand more democracy.

The government said 50 were killed; historians put the figure in the hundreds.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning point in Mexican politics. For many people, it stripped the legitimacy from a one-party system founded on the ideals of the Mexican Revolution, a system that until then had provided political stability and impressive economic growth.

The government said that students had started the shooting and the army had responded. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz blamed an international leftist conspiracy. But historians have discarded such accounts. For years, they have demanded, in vain, access to government files on the event.

Members of the congressional commission say the moment may finally have come when they can learn the truth. The commission was formed in October, after elections in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost control of the lower house of Congress for the first time in seven decades.

The massacre was a turning

## EDITORIALS/OPTION

**Herald Tribune**

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

**Focus on the Weapons**

The indifference of Saddam Hussein to the suffering of his people has created its own dilemma for everyone else. The Iraqi leader has refused to permit the full arms inspections that would end the economic sanctions the United Nations imposed after he swallowed Kuwait. He has maledicted in using the oil-for-food loophole that the United Nations crafted to spare the Iraqi people the full brunt of his defiance. Now there is a new complication as, again, foreigners show concern for the Iraqi people whom he ignores. Even while the United States moves toward an early military confrontation on arms inspections, the UN secretary-general proposes to expand the oil-for-food loophole and to unlink relief from the gathering storm.

To the general case for humanitarian relief for Iraq, there can be no serious objection. The political argument over who is to blame for the Iraqi population's plight must yield on moral grounds to the alleviation of pain, which, seven years after the Gulf War, is by objective testimony severe in the extreme. In any event, the United States will likely gain politically from the support it promptly announced for Kofi Annan's initiative. The Arab countries in particular have criticized the United States for what they see as a

If the humanitarian case for the American proposal is powerful, however, its timing is bad. The United States is planning some days of heavy bombing to enforce the UN inspection mandate. It is possible to imagine that Saddam Hussein will ride out a first attack. Is this the right moment for the United Nations to more than double (to \$5.2 billion) the oil that Iraq is allowed to sell every six months? True, the proceeds go not to him but to the world body for relief (and now infrastructure repair) in Iraq. Gulf War reparations and UN costs. But Saddam Hussein may be in a position to claim that he has survived Bill Clinton's best shot and received an international reward that lets him sell oil at nearly a prewar level.

Such a posture would cut directly across the urgent international effort to take weapons of mass destruction out of his hands. A delay on the Annan proposal in order to keep a tight focus on the arms makes sense. Many lives are at stake there, too.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

**The Press Does Its Job**

There is nothing like a big, fast-breaking story that people are really curious about for putting the professional press critics into their condemnatory mode. In turn, the whiff of condemnation puts many reporters and editors into meat culpable overdrive. A certain amount of public self-criticism is healthy in any field, especially one as powerful, diverse and unregulated as the media. But during Hurricane Monica, self-examination has morphed into unwarranted self-flagellation.

Free-flowing information is the fuel of democracy. The pontifical fog from the televised press panels should not obscure the key fact that industrious, uninhibited reporting has brought to light the factual outlines of a situation that indisputably belongs before the public.

The task of thinking straight about the mainstream reporting on this story is complicated by the sudden growth of non-orthodox journalism in the tabloids, the 7 o'clock gossip shows and Internet free-lancers. Certainly, these elements have speeded up the deadline clock and distorted the boundaries of good taste. As combatants in what Hillary Clinton regards as a political battle, the White House is well within its rights to seize on Matt Drudge's appearance on "Meet the Press" or ill-sourced accounts of the evidence-bearing dress as symbols of recklessness.

But no one should confuse regrettably lax sourcing and inaccurate details with being wrong on the big picture. Nor should we take President Bill Clinton's refusal to discuss matters about which he is the only person in the American government who knows the truth as a reason to end a national conversation that is worth having. It matters to millions of citizens whether the president has lied under oath or looking directly into the cameras.

It is, moreover, a fair matter of civic curiosity for any citizen — or newspaper — to wonder about the reports

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

**Other Comment****Start Paying Off the Debt**

Think of it: a balanced budget without a deficit. In fact, President Bill Clinton's fiscal 1999 federal budget projects a surplus of \$9.5 billion. And in the future? More balanced budgets with growing surpluses. The fiscal good news is dazzling.

This is a remarkable achievement, one that many Americans thought they would never see again. It is the result of commendable efforts by both the president and Congress and a conjunction of a buoyant economy and the end of the Cold War.

But Washington should not rush to spend those future budget surpluses. As of now, they exist only on paper and will occur only if the economy continues to perform at an exceptional pace. Even the \$9.5 billion that Mr. Clinton projects for next year is based on some iffy assumptions.

The president could seek to use some of the surplus to begin paying down the

—Los Angeles Times.

**For a Responsible America in a World Community**

By Flora Lewis

**D**AVOS, Switzerland — The way the United States has come to tower over the world was made evident at this year's World Economic Forum. America's clear superiority in all major realms of power — military, economic, political, technological, cultural — was repeatedly called to everyone's attention.

William Richardson, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, stressed "the importance therefore of the U.S. being international."

He was obviously addressing himself to Americans, especially congressmen who voted against paying up back UN dues, because all the people here could not agree more. They see U.S. power not so much as an advantage but as a responsibility, which they would like to see better fulfilled.

The ominous noise of the impending and seemingly inevitable war with Iraq almost drowned out signs that Washington is coming to see that it does need to take some new initiatives:

The failure to foresee and avert the East Asia economic crisis, now recognized as a danger to many more than the countries directly hit, has sparked new thinking about how international finance has ballooned out of control.

Serious social upheavals are expected in several countries as the pain of economic collapse falls on many millions of people. Already, Washington is beginning to plan on providing emergency food assistance to Indonesia, which will not be able to buy essential supplies.

But beyond the efforts to stem the crisis, there is a new awareness that the world's money stable are just not adequate to deal with the overwhelming volume of capital flows.

The experts are starting to talk about "Bretton Woods II," a successor to the conference at the end of World War II which set up the World Bank and the IMF Fund and made what rules exist.

There is controversy about whether Bretton Woods II should set up new additonal institutions or provide new powers to existing ones. But at least Washington has at last decided to study the issue and figure out how to draw up new proposals. The Clinton administration realizes that if it does not move, nobody else will.

The free market has become every-

body's maxim, but resistance is melting to the idea that orderly rules, particularly of disclosure and accountability, must be imposed if it is to function reliably.

Another new development, responding to foreign grievance, is the State Department's initiative on the use of sanctions. Since 1945, the United States has applied some kind of sanctions in a hundred cases for a wide variety of reasons ranging from human rights to nonproliferation. But 63 of these cases have been in the last three and a half years, a sanctions mania burdening foreign relations.

The experts are starting to talk about "Bretton Woods II," a successor to the conference at the end of World War II which set up the World Bank and the IMF Fund and made what rules exist.

American business is starting to lobby against the harm it does to commercial interests. So a system is to be made to make a cost-benefit analysis of each proposal for sanctions. There are many times, especially with Iran and Cuba, when the damage caused by resulting tensions with allies may outweigh the impact on the target country.

The idea is to demonstrate that sanctions are not a cost-free foreign policy tool. To decide whether they are worthwhile requires a case by case study of the hidden costs as well as of the probability that they will work. And that

cannot be shown unless the aim is clearly and specifically defined.

Six hundred U.S. companies have set up an organization called USA-Engage to challenge sanctions mania. The State Department relies on their support to persuade Congress that sanctions have to be made more selective, much more carefully calculated in terms of national interest instead of special interest groups.

This is one way of taming the tendency to use America's newfound sense of power irrationally, just because the power is there when some Americans want to show disapproval of something, regardless of other countries' views. That is part of what drives others to denounce a supposed American will to hegemony.

Of course the power is limited by the will of others. But more important is to limit it by a sense of responsibility so that Pax Americana can for the first time provide the world with community rather than imperial dominion.

America is "indispensable," as President Bill Clinton has said, but neither it nor the world will benefit if it tries to be overwhelming.

Flora Lewis

**Friend Blair Pays a Timely Visit to the Unsteady Superpower**

By Jim Hoagland

**W**ASHINGTON — British prime ministers have long understood that American presidents always do the right thing in a crisis, after exhausting every other option. The residents of 10 Downing Street have for six decades stuck close to the occupants of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue — to be in position to tip the balance at the crucial moment.

Tony Blair's visit to Washington this week follows that familiar pattern, even if he would never dream of calling attention to it. He will instead stress Britain's willingness to join U.S. strikes against Iraq and will emphasize the close political and ideological partnership that he and Bill Clinton have established.

Both things are true. But they are not the whole story of the special relationship as of the millennium approaches.

Mr. Blair is arguably Mr. Clinton's most important friend abroad at this moment of international political and monetary upset. No other important foreign leader combines solid control of the legislature, moral authority at home and economic

prosperity as Mr. Blair does. His three-day visit, which ends on Saturday, will point up that America has again become a brash, unpredictable Rome in need of tutoring and wise counsel from a physically weaker but more sophisticated modern-day Athens.

This is a result in equal parts of Mr. Clinton's domestic troubles and uncertain handling of much of his foreign policy agenda, and of the legislative arrogance and intransigence that grips Congress.

These factors make America an unreliable player in international politics today. Unlike the French, Germans, Israelis, Egyptians and others, the British mask their uneasiness with American leadership so as to be able to influence it.

Americans should remember that there will be two Tony Blairs visiting. On Iraq, he will speak as the British prime minister. On Iran, Cuba and other topics, he will speak as the European leader who chairs the European Union for the first six months of 1998.

Blair the Brit will offer genuine and important support on an urgent matter of war and peace. Blair the European will offer genuine and important opposition to congressional attempts to isolate Iran and extend U.S. law over foreign commercial transactions.

Mr. Blair's foreign secretary, Robin Cook, paved the way in Washington last month by publicly attacking the congressional approach to Iran as "wrong in principle and counterproductive."

Mr. Blair is more likely to stress the progress that has been made on controlling exports to Iran of technology and goods that can be used to build chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

He will report that Europe has moved significantly to tighten proliferation controls on Iran, and has joined Washington in pressing Russia's Boris Yeltsin to do the same. U.S. special envoy Frank Wisner got Moscow to accept the European Union's list of

prohibited exports as its own. That should, in the British view, set the stage for a joint U.S.-European approach to Iran that emphasizes dialogue and滴落 punitive sanctions.

In general, European leaders have concluded that it is impossible to prevent Iran from eventually developing weapons for mass destruction. As a big, homogeneous and ancient nation, Iran must be dealt with and not simply ostracized, in this view. The task for diplomacy is to reach a modus vivendi with the Iranian leadership, delay its acquisition of deadly weapons and discourage Iran fromreckless actions.

Iraq under Saddam Hussein is a different case. Military action is justified to deny the Iraqi regime weapons of mass destruction.

But throughout the crisis over UN inspections, Mr. Blair and Mr. Cook, both of whom are lawyers, have pressed Washington to give the French and Russians time and flexibility to make a deal that protects the inspections while giving Saddam some "light at the end of the tunnel" on sanctions.

In November, for example, it was Mr. Cook who forced Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's hand when she initially balked at flying to Geneva to meet with him and the French and Russian foreign ministers on Iraq. He would have to go to Geneva even if she did not, the foreign secretary dryly observed, according to two independent sources, and Mrs. Albright changed her plans.

British concern that Washington might be rushing the pace of NATO expansion has also surfaced from time to time. It is difficult to gauge how this has affected U.S. decisions, but the recent U.S. policy statement that effectively put off consideration of NATO membership for the Baltic nations for a decade was met with relief in London.

Margaret Thatcher loudly took credit for guiding two American presidents in the ways of the world. Tony Blair is far more discreet, but certainly no less important to America's unsteady world leadership.

The Washington Post

**Storm Clouds Over the Pacific: Beware of Trade Tension**

By Robert G. Lees

**H**ONOLULU — Leaders on both sides of the Pacific should carefully watch storm clouds that are gathering just over the horizon. Unless clear heads prevail, the region may be heading toward a period of heightened tension between the United States and East Asia over trade.

Such tension could set back the cause of trans-Pacific economic liberalization, and slow

Asia's recovery from financial turmoil.

Stalling economies and weak demand in East Asia, combined with currencies that are now worth much less against the dollar than in July, when the region's troubles erupted, provide both the means and the motivation for a surge of Asian exports to the United States.

The timing could not be worse. Protectionism and a key target because it has a robust economy, an open trading regime, a market large enough to absorb these products, and an overvalued currency.

Weakened Asian currencies will give Asian goods a competitive price advantage, arming Asian firms with a weapon to export aggressively.

How would such a surge of Asian imports be viewed in the United States? The Clinton administration has pushed for free trade and support for the IMF. But long before the administration's push for these causes had been weakened by scandal, Congress had already shown the strength of its protectionist muscle by forcing President Bill Clinton to back away from formally requesting fast-track trade negotiating authority.

The last Congressional session closed without even voting on a White House request for extra U.S. funding for the IMF and Mr. Clinton faces an uphill battle securing the money in the current session.

It does not take much imagination to envision the damaging media sound bites that certain politicians could fashion about the U.S. taxpayers who paid for the Asian IMF bailout, only to find their jobs being threatened by a rising tide of imports from these same nations in East Asia.

Especially as Japan, the country with the greatest financial exposure to the region, does little to further open its markets and stimulate demand even though it has the world's second largest economy.

It would be an extreme tactical blunder for Asian leaders to assume that because the American economy seems likely to continue growing at a healthy pace, a big increase in imports could be absorbed without howls of protest or calls for retaliatory action.

Funding for IMF programs and continued trade liberalization are essential if East Asia is to surmount its current difficulties. The highly charged political atmosphere that would result from a surge in Asian imports would imperil U.S. participation and leadership in both.

Responsible leaders on both sides of the Pacific would be well advised to ponder the implications of these disturbingly real possibilities.

The writer is secretary-general of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, an association of senior business leaders representing more than 1,000 firms in 20 countries around the Pacific. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

**1898: No to Illiterates**

**W**ASHINGTON — After a short debate in the Senate by a vote of 48 to 25, passed the Anti-Immigration bill, excluding from United States territory illiterate immigrants over sixteen years of age. Exception is made for widows, fathers and mothers and grandmothers of immigrants already established in the United States.

Rural infrastructure development and provision of basic health care and education will be essential, too, but these are all primarily the responsibility of government.

Finally, it remains for business to provide the enterprise, capital and inventiveness, and to forge the alliances and strike the deals that make the global marketplace a reality.

The writer is secretary-general of the International Chamber of Commerce. She contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

**Naples all speak of him with equal enthusiasm. And this is what they say:**

"At last Italy has a statesman who knows what he wants. Mussolini has steady nerves. He will not let himself be imposed upon by mob threats. He will no longer permit the Treasury to be a general grab bag. He will give Italy prestige. Business will boom."

1948: Ceylon Free

**C**OLOMBO — Ceylon, after 300 years of foreign domination, today [Feb. 4] attained full self-government. At midnight temple bells heralded the advent of Ceylon independence, and later salvos of guns, the bursting of firecrackers and the shriek of sirens proclaimed the birth of the Dominion. Ceylon's Premier appealed to the people to "use opportunities which freedom offers and to strive to toil for the establishment of the great Lanka (Ceylon)."

**Herald Tribune**

ESTABLISHED 1887

KATHARINE GRAHAM, ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER  
Co-Chairmen

KATHARINE P. DARROW, Vice Chairman  
RICHARD McCLEAN, Publisher & Chief Executive  
MICHAEL GETLER, Executive Editor

• WALTER WELLS, Managing Editor • PAUL HORVITZ, Deputy Managing Editor  
• KATHERINE KNORR and CHARLES MITCHELLORE, Associate Editors • SAMUEL ABT and CARL GEWIRTZ, Associate Editors • ROBERT J. DONAHUE, Editor of the Editorial Pages  
• JONATHAN GAGE, Business and Finance Editor  
• RENE BONDY, Deputy Publisher  
• JAMES MCLEOD, Advertising Director • DIDIER BRUN, Circulation Director  
Directeur de la Publication: Richard McClean

International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.  
Tel: (33) 1 45 93 10. Fax: Subscriptions: (1) 43 92 12; News: (1) 43 93 38.  
Internet address: <http://www.iht.com>. E-mail: [iht@iht.com](mailto:iht@iht.com)

Editor: Michael Edwards. 1, rue Sainte-Catherine, Bd. Sainte-Catherine, 75009 Paris, Tel: (33) 1 43 92 12; News: (1) 43 93 38. Fax: (33) 1 43 92 12. Tel: (33) 1 43 93 38. Fax: (33) 1 43 93 38.

Editor: Michael Edwards. 1, rue Sainte-Catherine, Bd. Sainte-Catherine, 75009 Paris, Tel: (33) 1 43 92 12; News: (1) 43 93 38. Fax: (33) 1 43 93 38.</

## OPINION/LETTERS

**What's the Point of This Story?  
Sex! So Quit the Pontificating**

By Frank Rich

**NEW YORK** — From day one there has been only one man with the vision to see the story clearly, and see it whole. I refer, of course, to America's malfe d' of special interest groups.

One way of taming the tendency of Americans' new found sense of national interest is to persuade Congress that they have to be much more careful in terms of national interest groups.

That is part of what drives other

polls), they are giving the president, whom they find guilty of this sin, a free pass.

Though recent academic sex surveys suggest that most of us lead moderate sex lives, the trade monthly *Adult Video News* reports a 100 percent rise in American porn-video rentals and sales since 1992, Internet porn not included. At \$4.2 billion, it's a business twice as large as major league baseball, three times as large as Disney's theme park division, eight times as large as Broadway.

Nonetheless, the lawyer William Ginsburg aped most of the television pundits Sunday when he declared: "I don't think ... the American public is really interested in the president's sex life. Monica's sex life or anybody else's sex life."

Guess again. That's all it's interested in, which is why the story is now subsidizing.

Without salacious details, this Clinton scandal would have no more legs with the public than Whitewater, Lippogate, Filegate or Travelgate.

The TV coverage is calming down now not because this scandal is over or because the networks have suddenly decided to take the high road in chastened reaction to public anger at their excesses, but simply because there is, for the moment, no fresh sex to fuel it.

It was a dark day for Oralgate as an entertainment juggernaut when the media had to retract such sordid staples of the coverage as the alleged semen-stained dress, the Secret Service voyeur and incidents of presidential phone sex. Time lines about possible suborned perjury, let

alone professional catfights between Mr. Ginsburg and the lawyer Alan Dershowitz, just don't cut it. A soap opera without daily helpings of sex is an oxymoron.

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

alone professional catfights between Mr. Ginsburg and the lawyer Alan Dershowitz, just don't cut it. A soap opera without daily helpings of sex is an oxymoron.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "a good-time girl."

Meanwhile, tonier essayists everywhere are dredging up Francois Mitterrand's mistress to pursue the "French" angle.

Poor Larry King. On Monday he was reduced to asking George Stephanopoulos if he had ever dated Monica. Poor Kenneth Starr. He can't get America's attention unless he's trading in sex, and then he's branded as a puritanical witch-hunter. Poor media. All dressed up in "President in Crisis" logos with no new bimbo eruptions in stock. Poor public. Once more into the video store, dear friends.

*The New York Times.*

Rather than fill the drought with, say, further investigation into the White House campaign finance scandals — how many Americans even knew that Charlie Trie was indicted last week? — the media instead try to strike lascivious sparks from damp wood.

MSNBC trot out grainy newsreel footage of the Wilson and Harding administrations in its search for novel presidential bawdy-pantsy. As if Ms. Lewinsky weren't young enough for prurient fantasies, the New York Post runs a photo spread illustrating how a cosmetic makeover could make her look younger still.

This week's *Newsweek* eroticizes even

the *New York Times*.

Oralgate's secondary female players: the right-wing pundit Ann Coulter is a "willowy" blonde, the alleged Clinton paramour Dolly Kyle Browning is a "bubbly" blonde and the book agent Lucianne Goldberg "



## TribTech

# NASA Quietly Gets Ready for That First Trip to Mars, Just in Case

By Warren E. Leary  
New York Times Service

**WASHINGTON** — As it has through the ages, Mars, at times the nearest planetary neighbor of Earth, holds a strange fascination for people and has long been a coveted destination for the more imaginative.

Whether spurred by science fiction or hints of past life in ancient Martian rocks, many people seem to feel that inevitably humans will set foot on the red planet, first to visit, then to stay.

Quietly, and often unnoticed, scientists and engineers are putting together plans and the technology to make such dreams a reality. At several National Aeronautics and Space Administration centers, and at universities and aerospace companies, small-scale studies are under way on bits of technology that could come together to send a human crew to Mars early in the next century.

New approaches being examined for a Mars trip — using lighter, partly inflatable ships, developing closed systems to recycle wastes and produce food, and making rocket fuel from Mars instead of hauling it from Earth — show promise.

Because there is no political mandate for a human mission to Mars, NASA is approaching the possibility cautiously

and with little fanfare, sponsoring several low-cost research projects and readying blueprints for an endeavor, should one be called for.

"I don't know of another event that would inspire our imaginations or stimulate our innate feelings for exploration more" than such a journey, said Daniel Goldin, the agency's administrator.

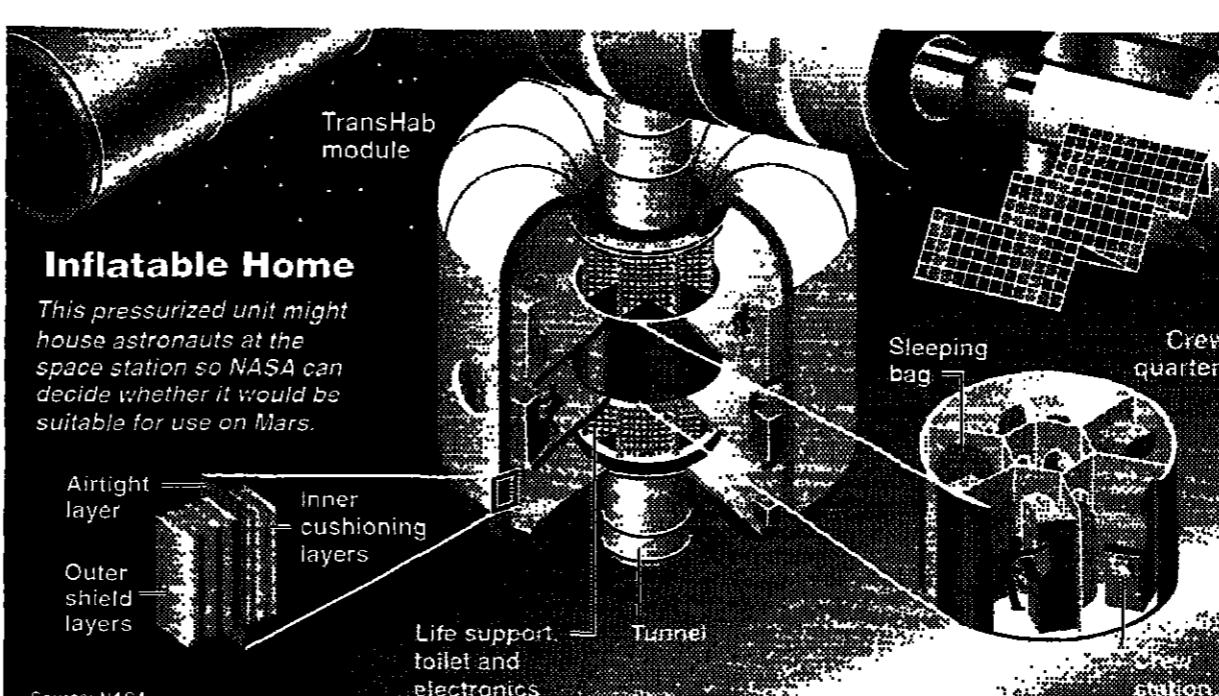
Mr. Goldin says that in the next five or six years, he wants his agency to lay the groundwork for such a venture. At the end of that period, he said, criteria for the mission should be solid enough to show the president or Congress how to accomplish it within 8 to 10 years of setting a starting date.

Four questions must be resolved before there can be a serious human Mars proposal, Mr. Goldin said: Can people live and work in space for the two to four years required? Is there a compelling scientific reason for people to go? Can the journey be made for a relatively low cost? Should the United States conduct the mission alone or as part of an international project?

To address these questions, NASA officials said, the agency has been spending \$5 million to \$10 million a year on studies directly related to human exploration beyond Earth orbit.

Much has changed from previous efforts, says Louis Friedman, executive director of the Planetary Society, and other experts. First, the cost estimates for a Mars expedition have dropped sharply in the last few years and should continue to fall as researchers explore new ways of doing things, they say. Recent estimates by NASA engineers put the cost of sending six astronauts to Mars on a two-to-three-year mission at about \$55 billion, only about 10 percent of the projection a decade ago.

Some experts hold that robots are the best way to explore Mars. But Mr. Goldin and others said initial studies may turn up tasks that only humans can do well.



not provided for in current plans for the station, Ms. Fender said. Such a radiation shield would be useful on an interplanetary trip or on Mars, which, unlike Earth, has no magnetic field to trap solar radiation above the planet.

Other technology in the works focuses on regenerative life support systems that can recycle wastes while producing oxygen and food for space travelers.

**N**ASA engineers working with the Advanced Life Support Program, also headquartered at the Johnson center, say they have made great strides in developing a bioreactor that uses microbes to clean waste water before it is filtered through a conventional reverse-osmosis purification system.

Don Henning, head of the life-support program at Johnson, said the program completed a 91-day test in December in which four participants in a sealed chamber proved that such a system was feasible. It allowed recovery of 99 percent of potable water, he said, processing a total of 2,300 gallons from the 210 gallons originally stored.

For the first time in such a test, engineers used an incinerator to recycle fecal waste, recovering carbon dioxide and water vapor used to nourish wheat and lettuce growing in an adjacent chamber. The wheat, in turn, produced 25 percent of the oxygen used by the crew.

The regenerative system has obvious implications for a Mars trip, because it would be expensive and impractical to take along all of the food, water and other consumable items that the crew would need without recycling it, he said.

The program is planning to build a large research unit known as Bio-plex to test the idea of a completely contained, closed system that can sustain a crew for more than a year.

"Our job is to be ready with the technology when it is needed," he said.

### SITES

#### Related sites on the Internet:

- The latest on Mars exploration projects from the NASA Ames Space Science Division is at: [cmex-www.arc.nasa.gov/](http://cmex-www.arc.nasa.gov/)
- A list of Mars-related links, sponsored by ThinkQuest, is at: [library.advanced.org/11147/pages.htm](http://library.advanced.org/11147/pages.htm)
- A launch pad to help navigate Mars and the possibilities it offers is at: [www.gsl.net/n1std/marsframes/rameset.html](http://www.gsl.net/n1std/marsframes/rameset.html)

## U.S. Cyber-Establishment Bets Chips on 'Internet 2'

*Universities Team With Firms and Government*

By Robyn Meredith  
New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — A handful of researchers scattered across the country are rushing to develop a videoconferencing computer program so sophisticated that it will allow executives in four locations to "sit" around a table together, "handing" documents back and forth while they talk.

The virtual meeting is perhaps the most ambitious of many programs now being designed for the next generation of the Internet, an endeavor President Clinton championed in his State of the Union address.

Researchers at more than 100 universities, with the backing of a few companies, are taking the lead in the effort, and their quarterback is Douglas Van Houweling, one of the creators of the original Internet.

Mr. Van Houweling is chief executive and president of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development, a nonprofit group that is trying to harness academia, government and industry to put together Internet 2, as the project is called, as well as the programs needed to operate it.

Mr. Van Houweling's plan is to add high-speed lanes to the clogged electronic highway that today's Internet has become. After the universities develop and debug these new lanes over the next two to five years, commercial interests will probably take over, imposing

charges on those using Internet 2's premium services.

Mr. Van Houweling envisions Internet 2 as a way for high-end users to quickly and reliably move huge amounts of data across phone, cable, satellite or other yet-to-be-invented networks. The virtual meeting is just one advance that would be far ahead of current technologies.

"Today's Internet is like a single-lane highway with unlimited access points and no traffic control," said Mr. Van Houweling, who is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "There will never be a red light that will come on and say you can't use it. When the traffic gets heavy, things slow down."

Internet 2 will add toll lanes to speed things up.

While the strength of the Internet has been its accessibility, this has become a weakness for those who need to move large amounts of data quickly. There is now no way for them to separate themselves from the rest of the pack, who typically send e-mail.

Allan Weis, chief executive of Advanced Network & Services, said he hoped the technology would be up and running by 2000 and commercially available by 2003. Companies that want to commercialize the service will most likely need to license the intellectual property rights from the various universities that developed it, he said.

Mr. Van Houweling's organization consists of 117 universities. Each contributes from \$50,000 to more than \$1 million a year to upgrade its campus computers and to help develop programs for Internet 2.

On the business side, about 25 companies have pledged to pay \$10,000 each in annual dues and to provide services. Participants include Cisco Systems Inc. and 3Com Corp., which will be involved in designing advanced switches and routers for the system; IBM Corp., which plans to give \$3.5 million in grants; telecommunications giants MCI Communications Corp., AT&T Corp. and Sprint Corp.; and Starburst, an independent software vendor.

Public and private research centers



Douglas Van Houweling, a creator of the Internet, aims to speed it up.

### SITES

#### Related sites on the Internet:

- More on Douglas Van Houweling at: [www.umich.edu/~newinfo/Releases/1997/0ct97r1008976.html](http://www.umich.edu/~newinfo/Releases/1997/0ct97r1008976.html)
- Latest information on the Internet 2 project at: [www.internet2.edu/](http://www.internet2.edu/)
- Some industry partners working with universities to develop Internet 2 at: [www.hied.libm.com/news/bulletin/restate.html](http://www.hied.libm.com/news/bulletin/restate.html)
- www.3com.com/news/releases/sept1597a.html

### BRIEFLY

**CLEANING WITH RADAR:** The Swedish appliance giant Electrolux AB has unveiled a prototype of a robot vacuum cleaner, designed to ease the load of housework-haters around the world.

The robot vacuum cleaner is a smooth round disk with wheels, with built-in navigational radar that allows it to vacuum its way around any room without bumping into furniture or other obstacles. When placed on the ground, the battery-operated vacuum cleaner automatically starts cleaning without my human help.

It first finds the nearest wall and vacuums around the edge of the room. It then cleans the rest of the room, in irregular stretches, slowing down when it approaches an obstacle and steering out of the way with a microprocessor.

Electrolux, which began making vacuum cleaners in 1909 and now makes about 20 percent of all those sold in the world, said there were no immediate plans for production. Tests are being carried out to determine consumer and commercial viability.

The unique thing about this robot is that we have made a breakthrough when

it comes to cost and production. It is fully possible to manufacture," said Michael Treschow, the chief executive.

Electrolux has already developed a prototype solar-powered robot lawnmower, sold under the brand name Husqvarna. (APF)

**PC CRASH ALERT:** A five-year streak of robust growth in Japan's personal-computer market is set to come to a halt as the sluggish economy has hit buying by both companies and consumers, a trade group said this week.

The Japan Electronic Industry Development Association, a group of 23 major PC makers operating in Japan, said domestic shipments of PCs in the year ending March 31 would fall for the first time in five years.

The group expects shipments of about 6.7 million units in the 1997-98 business year, short of the target of 7.5 million it announced in November and down 6.8 percent from 1996-97.

The November forecast had already been cut from a forecast last spring of 8.8 million units as sales steadily slumped.

PC shipments in the fourth quarter of

1997 fell 7 percent from a year earlier, their second consecutive quarterly decline, the group said. (Reuters)

**ON-LINE CONTINENT:** AOL Bertelsmann Online Europe GmbH expects to have more than 2 million customers by July, challenging Deutsche Telekom AG as Europe's leading provider of on-line information services.

The joint venture of America Online Inc. and the German media company Bertelsmann AG has seen its membership reach 950,000 since it began operating in Europe in November 1995. The purchase this week of CompuServe Corp.'s European operations almost doubles AOL Bertelsmann's subscriber base to 1.8 million, putting it second to Deutsche Telekom's T-Online and its 1.9 million subscribers. (Bloomberg)

**WEB-JACKING:** The recent attention being paid to Matt Drudge, publisher of the Drudge Report, an on-line gossip sheet covering the Monica Lewinsky case, has meant that his Web site ([www.drudgereport.com](http://www.drudgereport.com)) has become one of the most popular information destinations on the Internet, often making it difficult to get on to the site. But if

users type that same Web address as [drudgereport.com](http://www.drudgereport.com) (note the missing letter "d"), they will end up in a site that has little to do with Drudge or Washington. They will be transported to the cyberhome of a bank in Latvia, which is capitalizing on Mr. Drudge's notoriety to pull Web traffic its way.

**Paritite Bank,** which is based in Riga and bills itself as an offshore on-line bank, uses the Internet aggressively to draw new business — and in doing so has registered a variety of domain names.

In addition to the obvious addresses, such as [www.paritite.lv](http://www.paritite.lv) and [www.paritite.com](http://www.paritite.com), it has laid claim to [www.anonymousbanking.com](http://www.anonymousbanking.com) and [www.offshore-account.com](http://www.offshore-account.com). It has also registered dozens of marquee brand names or variations thereof. The variations run the gamut from [bloomberry.com](http://bloomberry.com) to [warnerbrother.com](http://warnerbrother.com).

Most of these sites have been registered since the beginning of this year, with the help of a company based in Dublin named MartinSide Marketing.

"We believe these sites help drive general traffic to our site, and even if a visitor was not looking for bank facilities in Latvia, he might remember us

and come back," said Alexander Ruchkovsky, Internet project manager for Paritite, who estimated that 30 percent of new accounts came through the bank's Web site. (NYT)

**THE SMALL PICTURE:** Fuji Photo Film Co. will introduce the world's smallest and lightest megapixel digital camera in Japan on March 4.

The camera is equipped with a 1.5 million pixel "charged-coupled device" sensor, the company said. Such a device is equivalent to film in analog cameras; a CCD sensor takes in light and color information from an image and transforms it into digital information. Digital cameras for consumer use normally have CCD sensors with about 300,000 pixels, while high-end models used by professional photographers can have more than 2 million pixels.

The camera, which weighs about 245 grams (8.6 ounces), will sell at retail for 99,800 yen (\$790), the company said. A spokesman said Fuji planned to start exporting it April 1.

The company aims to sell 250,000 of the cameras in Japan during the first year of sales, the spokesman said. (Reuters)

moving out there is the inevitable decline of the written word and the rise of little speakers in home, office, car and pocket.

Why write when you can talk? Most people think writing is difficult, even tortuous, and they have no patience or time for reading. The same folks love to talk and listen.

Well, the hardware exists, and software is being developed, to make it possible to function by directing streams of verbal consciousness at computers inside refrigerators, televisions, stores, dashboards, school desks and flush toilets — accepting and sending audible directions and information in any language.

**I**F THERE are languages, I'm joking, but I see troubling portents in Windows 95, Microsoft's pictographic — and, therefore, universal — language, using icons and mouses rather than letters and key-striking.

I could be wrong about how long it might take to change the world. Creating the software making such things possible is labor-intensive, takes a lot of man-hours, so programs lag hardware capability — and the government, you and I lag hardware.

Keeping up is difficult even for the men and women who spend all their time pushing the envelope of technology.

But along with Microsoft Corp., companies as serious as IBM and Lucent Technologies Inc. appear to be pushing forward.

Even writers are in on this. Don Katz, whose books include "Home Fires" and "The Big Store," gave up typing for money to build a company called Audible Inc., which has just introduced a pocket-sized 3.5-ounce gizmo that loads itself with sound from the Internet, from audio-books and from anything else that makes noise — in effect, giving anyone out there a chance to program a personal mobile radio station.

Mr. Katz, the new tycoon, says building a company from an idea makes writing seem relaxing.

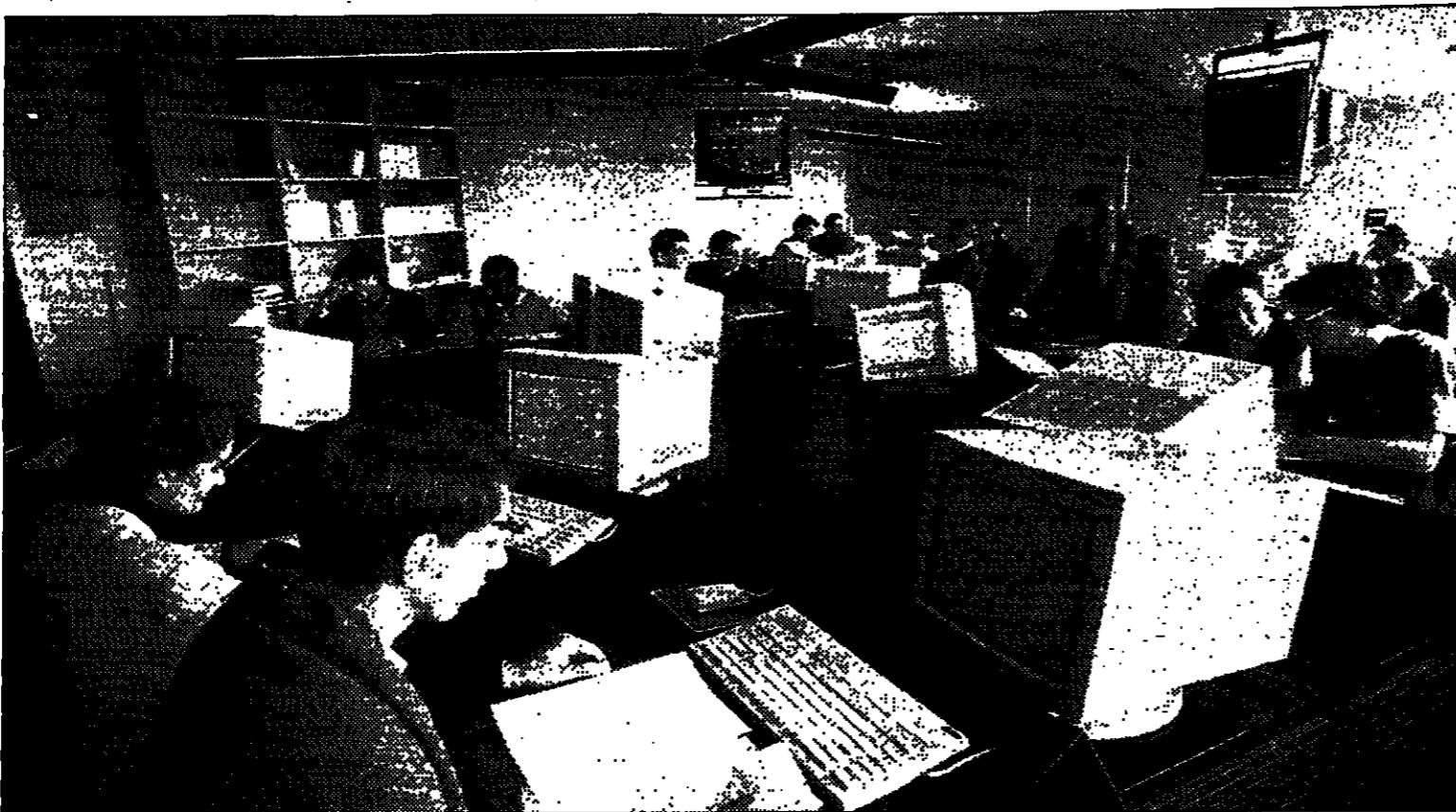
I don't doubt that, but talking and listening are a lot easier than either commerce or art — and given a choice, most people opt for convenience. The ongoing history of our times has been the drive to make life easier and easier for most of the people most of the time.



Stuart Goldsmith/HIT

# CÔTE D'AZUR: WHERE MULTIMEDIA FLOURISHES

The Côte d'Azur has long been favored by creative artists. The Impressionists were drawn by the purity of its light. The world of film, television and advertising comes to shoot on location and attend industry events like the Cannes Film Festival. Companies and individuals working in a more recently developed form of art and communication, multimedia, also appreciate the sophisticated telecoms networks and the technical and creative expertise for which the Côte d'Azur has built a solid reputation.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING

Artists and technicians benefit from local multimedia associations and international meetings.

Unlike painters and writers, who may shut themselves off from the world, the creative juices of multimedia artists flow best through interactive contact. The telecommunications infrastructure on the Côte d'Azur takes care of the electronic contact, but not at the expense of face-to-face interaction. Clubs and associations abound for networking within the region, while conference destinations like Nice and Cannes draw half a million visitors a year to some of the leading media events in Europe.

The world-renowned Cannes Film Festival in May is followed by its counterpart for advertising in June. Television takes the spotlight with MIPDOC for documentary program screenings in April; MIP-TV, the international television program market in April; and MIPCOM Junior, featuring program screenings for young people in October.

These celebrations of traditional media are supplemented by two major "new media" options: MIDEM, the international record, music publishing and music-video market in January, and MILIA, the international market for interactive media in February.

Even tiny Monaco has a major multimedia attraction with Imagina, a 17-year old conference that began as an offshoot of the Festival of Television of Monte Carlo. This year it will attract more than 7,500 computer-graphics experts from 50 countries. Imagina press attaché Sophie Benhalla explains why: "There is no equivalent show in Europe geared to professionals."

Networking need not involve thousands of people; sometimes a few contacts are enough. On a local level, clubs and associations provide myriad opportunities for the direct exchange of ideas. One of the oldest of these, the High-Tech Route (Route des Hautes Technologies) was created a decade ago by the regional council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

Telecom Valley was created in 1991 by eight large companies, French and American, and today includes some 40 members representing 6,500 knowledge workers in telecommunications.

Club Hi-Tech was launched in 1992 by the Nice Chamber of Commerce to encourage interaction between high-tech businesses and the region's universities and research institutions.

IMEt, the Mediterranean Institute of Teleactivity, was launched in 1994 to promote interactivity among telecommunications operators, service providers and users.

Data Base Forum was created in 1994 by Serge Miranda, a professor at the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis. It is the first database group in France to be independent of industry vendors. Its events feature speakers from Microsoft, Oracle and IBM, and exchanges with UCLA, among other institutions.

Club MITSA (Multimedia, Interactivity and Teleactivity at Sophia Antipolis) was created in 1995 to encourage interchange among the area's high-tech companies, multimedia-software developers, and local artists, teachers, business professionals and customers. The club's president, Senator Pierre Laffitte, was also the founder of Sophia Antipolis and has been a driving force behind the region's overall transformation into a high-tech domain. He considers the mix of skills and backgrounds among the Club's some 200 members to be "a true breeding ground for creativity."

Club EuroSud 155 was launched in 1996 by Data Base Forum, France Telecom, IMEt and Telecom Valley to support the development of multimedia technology based on the area's ATM platform and high-speed network. Its goal, says Claude Gueguen, the group's president, is "not technology, but the creativity that high-speed ATM technology can generate."

## ATTRACTING THE RIGHT BRAINS FOR MULTIMEDIA EXCELLENCE

*Creativity is an essential quality for developing both content and hardware.*

What is the Côte d'Azur's recipe for a successful multimedia environment? Start with an inviting and accessible location, add the essential infrastructure, stir in a blend of workforce talent, university brains and community willpower, and voilà.

The creative arts have had an ongoing relationship with the Côte d'Azur. Since the 19th century, the French Riviera has been a *terre de artistes*, attracting painters drawn by its visual beauty and the remarkable purity of its light.

Creative talents from the entertainment and advertising industries appreciate other attractions of Southern France: an international airport and a sophisticated and reliable communications infrastructure. The region is recognized as a *terre de tournage*, with a remarkable variety of scenic locations for shooting film or video.

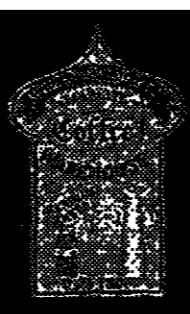
Multimedia is a new player in both the entertainment industries and the merging fields of information and communications technology. The term refers to "sound, data and/or visual content delivered over digitalized media platforms," according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's definition.

The Côte d'Azur's recognized strength in information and communications technology are reinforcing the region's growing reputation as an incubator for multimedia activity. Requirements are access to large and sophisticated databases, high-speed networks and both technical and creative expertise for content.

**The necessary ingredients**  
The French Riviera has all of these. Companies like Arnaud, SITA, Questel Orbit, Oracle and others have or provide access to databases. Some of the leading companies in information and communications technology have research facilities here: AT&T Corp., Digital Equipment Corp. and International Business Machines Corp., among others. The University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis hosts a multitude of research projects and specialized programs, and it is flanked by a variety of high-level institutes focusing on multimedia.

France's first approved ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) platform, created by France Telecom, is located here. A two-year project will test applications for this high-speed telecommunications network capable of transmitting 155 megabits per second.

More than 100 multimedia-specific companies are located in the area, covering a range of activities from the production of multimedia



Top: Students at CERAM, which offers a master's degree in databases and systems integration with a multimedia option. Above and right: Images from a Web site and CD-ROM about coffee by the company ROM.

equipment to the development of information content, distribution, CD-ROM production, creation of Web sites and other services. They are reinforced by an educational and association infrastructure that encourages interactivity at all levels.

**A focus on customers**  
"Companies are changing. They are more concerned with content and customers than ever before," observes Jean-Pierre Mascarelli, president of Côte d'Azur Développement and vice president of the Alpes-Maritimes local council. "And the nature of our region favors the open exchange of communication essential to the information society."

More than half of the multimedia enterprises on the French Riviera have been created since 1991, and more than three-fourths of them are independent startups. "Today's companies are small and flexible," says Mr. Mascarelli. "They want to rent, not buy. They are mo-

bile, which means they can decide to move here rather quickly, but it means they can decide to move away quickly as well. So we have to give them reasons to stay."

The reasons are what constitutes the region's recipe for success. "Our key points are often described as our reputation, our attractiveness as a site and our international airport," says Mr. Mascarelli, "but these are a given. All economic develop-

ment regions have got to promise these things. Our unique advantages are our creativity and the quality and content of our offer, including service, a multicultural environment and a high-quality of life."

"Those working in multimedia will feel especially at home here," summarizes Mr. Mascarelli, "because artists and creativity have a long-standing tradition on the Côte d'Azur."

## A VIBRANT INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY

*Multimedia development is not isolated in a science park but integrated into the life of local citizens.*

On the Côte d'Azur, multimedia development is not isolated in a science park but integrated into community life. Scientific pursuits and local citizens are interconnected in a variety of ways.

Interconnectivity begins with Nice Airport, the second-busiest in France. The airport recently received funding from the Provence-Alpes-Maritimes-Côte d'Azur regional commission for a \$10 million expansion over the next two years. Its appeal for business travelers lies not only in its international connections, but also in its convenient in-town location. Mikko Kukkainen, director of European sales for Starburst Communications, observes, "I travel a lot in my job, and I know that some European airports have more direct international flights. But you lose that advantage by the time it takes to get to the airport itself, like Paris or Heathrow."

Local subscribers to Télériviera, an experimental cable service in Nice, are already enjoying the fruits of multimedia advances. They have unlimited access to the Internet at 50 times the speed of an ordinary phone connection, services like local traffic, film and CD-ROM previews, and eventually television access to 35 digital channels and 30 analog ones, all for 150 French francs per month. A survey last November revealed that subscribers connect to the service twice a day and stay for more than an hour. Cannes has a similar initiative in the works.

Since December 1996, a different sort of program has been running at the Nice Chamber of Commerce with the financial support of the Alpes-Maritimes local council. The Côte d'Azur Resource Center is an interactive presentation geared to professional delegations, journalists and potential investors. Rich in economic and touristic details and color images, it provides a virtual visit to the sites and attractions of the region. More than 2,000 visitors viewed it in its first year, and it contributed to helping a number of them in making their investment decisions.

MEDSAT's purview is broader. It was created in 1996 to promote the development of the information highway in Europe and the Mediterranean region. It focuses on collaborative cultural, educational and medical projects through multimedia initiatives.

The World Trade Center in Sophia

Antipolis, which opened its doors in 1997, has a special interest in welcoming multimedia and other high-tech companies to its modern office facilities, which include on-line services and links to 500,000 businesses worldwide. The director of the WTC, Joseph Ontow, says that "it aims to become a physical and virtual campus which attracts the best minds that develop the future of our networked society. It provides an optimal environment in order to foster synergy and creativity within the local multimedia world."

The International Center for Advanced Communications (CICA) in Sophia Antipolis is an incubator for innovative enterprises specializing in computer-generated images, CD-ROMs and language adaptation, among others. Some two-thirds of CICA's 50

current occupants are startups, with a success rate of 98 percent.

Network options in the region include R3T2, the regional telecommunications network dedicated to research and technology; and RENATER, the national network for teaching and research.

Advanced transportation and communications infrastructure means little without the talent to take advantage of them; however, to develop multimedia products of added value, added-value intelligence is needed.

The intellectual and academic resources on the Côte d'Azur prove that brains add value to the region's natural beauty. For example, the 27,000 students at the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis (UNSA) have a choice of 200 specialized research centers and countless opportunities to pursue multimedia projects with local companies.

Serge Miranda, a professor at UNSA, developed a joint program with the

grande école CERAM that offers a master's degree in databases and systems integration, with a multimedia option. Professor Miranda is also the scientific director of ISBA Multimedia Institute, which groups together a number of initiatives in information exchange, industry involvement and distance learning.

ESSI (Ecole Supérieure en Sciences Informatiques) is an engineering school at UNSA specializing in computer science. Its 80 graduates each year may choose to specialize in multimedia or in distributed systems, and all have practical experience through internships with local companies.

ISIA (Institut Supérieur d'Informatique et d'Automatique) is a special engineering branch of the Ecole des Mines de Paris, created jointly with two grande écoles of commerce and engineering: the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications. Students, who must have an engineering diploma to apply, attend classes for one year and serve a one-year internship, with multimedia among the options.

Eurecom is another educational joint venture involving France's Ecole Supérieure Nationale des Télécommunications and the Swiss-based Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne. Its multimedia communications department trains engineers in all areas of multimedia. Director Claude Gueguen describes the school's mission as "the three I's: international, industry and integration of systems," with the goal of "taking technology off the shelf and making it work for the user."

Theseus Institute, a Sophia Antipolis-based international management school, has a similarly pragmatic bent. "Our graduates learn about the implications of technology for executive management, not for wiring circuits," says director Ahmet Aykac.

The Boston-based World Wide Web Consortium located its European operations in Sophia Antipolis. It is not the same sort of standards-based group as its science park neighbor, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, but organizations like these and the nearby National Institute for Intellectual Property enhance the area's intellectual infrastructure and enrich its community life.

## FAST-MOVING STARTUPS BRING ENERGY AND INNOVATIONS TO THE LOCAL SCENE

Foreign-born or local, newborn or with years of experience, a spate of small, fast-moving companies are contributing to the multimedia explosion on the Côte d'Azur.

One of the relative old-timers is ROM, founded by Dominique Lucchini in 1988. He was living in the area and wanted to develop a CD-ROM-based business here because "I love this region. It is a place beloved of artists and painters." In fact, his earliest projects were CDs about local cultural riches, such as the Foundation Maeght, the village of Vence and the villa of Kerylos. More recently, ROM has moved into Web-site development and has just produced a Web-site spin-off from its CD-ROM about coffee. Mr. Lucchini believes it is "the richest on the Web."

Espri Concept was created in Sophia Antipolis in 1989, a spin-off from work being done at nearby Aerospatiale. The company specializes in architecture and integration for technical information systems, so it is no surprise that it works closely with the *grande école* CERAM, which has developed a specialization in database management. "We settled in Sophia Antipolis because the international dimension and the ATM platform interested us," says Director André Labat, adding, "We benefit from close relations with the university."

Another local startup is Vinci Media, founded in 1994 by Thierry Maman. The company produces television programming and handles the multimedia needs of a number of clients in the health-care field. Mr. Maman subsequently moved the company's

headquarters to Paris ("for commercial reasons") but the technical staff and most of his executives remain in Nice. Only 16 months old, locally founded ECHO first made its name reverberate with a French-based search engine that many consider the best of its kind on the Francophone Web. Michael Bisac, ECHO's commercial director, describes the company's mission as the development of innovative, effective and reliable applications for the Internet and intranets. This mission is facilitated by the company's choice of headquarters at the International Center for Advanced Communications (CICA), an incubator for startups located in Sophia Antipolis.

A newer CICA fledgling, born in 1997, is DUST, which focuses on innovative ways of processing and restoring motion pictures. Their work requires "experienced people with backgrounds in motion pictures, video, data processing and labs," explains Marc Chancerel, vice president of business development. "We found very skilled people presenting this profile in the region, he says.

Live Picture took a more roundabout route to the French Riviera. The company, which specializes in software for

multimedia images, originated in Toulouse, then moved to Silicon Valley, and then decided to set up a European base of operations. "We chose Sophia Antipolis for the airport, the number of multimedia companies here, the educational institutions and the atmosphere," explains Nicolas Rostantoff, Live Picture's director. "Even the bookstores here are well-equipped in our specialty."

Mikko Kukkainen, director of European sales for Starburst Communications, had been working on the Côte d'Azur for five years when Starburst, which has headquarters in the United States, asked him to set up its European operation in 1997. "I didn't hesitate," he says. "I was already here and knew the advantages: the telecommunications infrastructure, the cosmopolitan work force, the international atmosphere, the airport."

Starburst specializes in electronic information delivery via multicast networks solutions. Multicasting enables a server to send information — such as software files, real-time audio and video, and continuous streams of messages such as market data and news feeds — from one source simultaneously to any number of clients.

Live Picture took a more roundabout route to the French Riviera. The company, which specializes in software for

"CÔTE D'AZUR: WHERE MULTIMEDIA FLOURISHES" was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune. It was sponsored by Côte d'Azur Développement. WRITER: Claudio Flisi in the South of France. PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Maher.

multimedia images, originated in Toulouse, then moved to Silicon Valley, and then decided to set up a European base of operations. "We chose Sophia Antipolis for the airport, the number of multimedia companies here, the educational institutions and the atmosphere," explains Nicolas Rostantoff, Live Picture's director. "Even the bookstores here are well-equipped in our specialty."

MEDSAT's purview is broader. It was created in 1996 to promote the development of the information highway in Europe and the Mediterranean region. It focuses on collaborative cultural, educational and medical projects through multimedia initiatives.

The World Trade Center in Sophia

Antipolis, which opened its doors in 1997, has a special interest in welcoming multimedia and other high-tech companies to its modern office facilities, which include on-line services and links to 500,000 businesses worldwide. The director of the WTC, Joseph Ontow, says that "it aims to become a physical and virtual campus which attracts the best minds that develop the future of our networked society. It provides an optimal environment in order to foster synergy and creativity within the local multimedia world."

The International Center for Advanced Communications (CICA) in Sophia Antipolis is an incubator for innovative enterprises specializing in computer-generated images, CD-ROMs and language adaptation, among others. Some two-thirds of CICA's 50

current occupants are startups, with a success rate of 98 percent.

Network options in the region include R3T2, the regional telecommunications network dedicated to research and technology; and RENATER, the national network for teaching and research.

Advanced transportation and communications infrastructure means little without the talent to take advantage of them; however, to develop multimedia products of added value, added-value intelligence is needed.

The intellectual and academic resources on the Côte d'Azur prove that brains add value to the region's natural beauty. For example, the 27,000 students at the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis (UNSA) have a choice of 200 specialized research centers and countless opportunities to pursue multimedia projects with local companies.

Serge Miranda, a professor at UNSA, developed a joint program with the

IN GLOBAL

As a multi-national organization, we are committed to providing high-quality education and training to students from around the world. We offer a wide range of courses in various fields, including business, engineering, and technology. Our faculty consists of experienced and qualified professors who are dedicated to providing excellent education. We believe that education is the key to success and we strive to provide our students with the best possible learning experience. Our facilities are modern and well-equipped, providing students with all the necessary resources to succeed. We also offer various support services, such as counseling, career guidance, and placement assistance. Our goal is to produce well-rounded individuals who are prepared for the challenges of the global workplace. We welcome students from all over the world to join us and become part of our global community.

SPONSORED PAGE  
RISSES  
PORTANCE  
WORKING

ectors benefit from local media and international meetings

and writers, who may shut themselves off, the creative juices of media through interactive contact with infrastructure on the Cognac Club and associations about the region, while conference delegations draw half a million visitors to studios events in Europe.

Cannes Film Festival in June, Teletex MIPDOC for documentary

MIP-TV, the international tele-

for young people in October,

of traditional media are supple-

new media" options: MIDEM, the

publishing and music-industry

MIPTA, the international market

for a major multimedia attract-

conference that began as an off-

shoot of Monte Carlo. This year,

events attract graphic experts for

equivalent show in Europe.

not involve thousands of people

enough. On a local level, clubs

of the oldest of these, the High-

Technology Association created

in 1984 by engineers work-

ing at Bell Labs, now has mem-

bership in 1997 by the New Cham-

ber interaction between right

and left coasts and around the world.

International Institute of Technology, founded in 1990, has

over 100 members in 10 countries

and 100 chapters in 20 countries









NASDAQ

**Wednesday's 4 P.M.**  
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities  
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.  
*The Associated Press.*

NYSE

**Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close**  
**(Continued)**

## Vietnam Tries to Manage Foreign Investment Amid Crisis

## With Korean 'She'

## **Plan to Sell Hotels**

## OREA: Despite New Rules

# **EDUCATION**

Appears every Monday  
in The International  
advertise contact Sarah Verdu  
in our London office  
Tel: +44 171 520 1866  
Fax: +44 171 520 1866  
or your local distributor.

or representative  
Retail Tribune

## ASIA/PACIFIC

# Hanoi Tries to Make Up With Foreign Investors

*Amid P&G Crisis, Meeting Reassures Few*

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HO CHI MINH CITY — Prime Minister Phan Van Khai vowed Wednesday to improve the investment climate for foreigners as Procter & Gamble Co.'s Vietnam unit teetered on the brink of bankruptcy.

"We are imminently facing insolvency," he said, adding that the parent company could not legally inject more capital unless the local partner in the venture did the same.

"We are fully aware that we should and must continue to improve the environment to continue the improvement of the competitiveness of the market economy," he added.

Mr. Khai acknowledged that officials had caused unjustified losses for foreign investors, and he pledged to improve the situation.

"We will make the foreign investment environment more attractive and transparent," he said.

But he then said that not all foreign investors were saints and that some were guilty of trade fraud, labor abuses and tax evasion.

Procter & Gamble has become a symbol of Hanoi's problems with foreign investors. Its Vietnamese unit, which is 70 percent owned by the American company and 30 percent owned by a local, state-run partner, is on the brink of shutting down.

The partners argued last year over responsibility for millions of dollars in losses incurred over the venture's first two and half years in operation. Within weeks the issue had been covered extensively by the state-controlled media which, for the most part, portrayed it as an example of a foreign company's trying to

muscle out Vietnamese interests.

Alan Hed, the company's top executive in Vietnam, said that while there was still hope of saving the venture, it was in default on loans and starved for funds to continue.

"We are imminently facing insolvency," he said, adding that the parent company could not legally inject more capital unless the local partner in the venture did the same.

Mr. Hed said efforts to resolve the dispute, including lobbying on its behalf by the U.S. Embassy, had made no progress so far. He was not hopeful of any last-minute breakthrough.

At the conference, foreign investors presented a list of complaints and said much needed to be done if Vietnam were to regain its attraction as an investment destination.

Vi Le, trade commissioner for the Australian Embassy in Hanoi, said the reality of doing business in Vietnam was at odds with policy or statements by government officials.

"Getting the investment license is the easy part," she said. "After that, the day-to-day environment for implementation of the investment is riddled with hindrances that are contrary to policy. This has led to considerable foreign investor disillusionment."

Few investors said they expected much change after the meeting, which was held in the former South Vietnam's presidential palace.

"I don't think the changes required here are going to occur until there is a substantial pain feeling at street level," said Peter Ryder, president of the American property company Lukemax Co. (Reuters, AFP)



**STRIKE FORCE** — Members of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions listening to a press conference Wednesday at which a spokesman complained that South Korean workers were bearing the brunt of the country's economic pain. The union threatened to stage a nationwide strike Friday.

## Asia Gives Up Some Gains Stock Indexes Slip as 'Realism' and Profit-Taking Set In

Reuters

HONG KONG — Major stock markets across Asia fell Wednesday as investors reminded themselves that the region's economic problems and poor corporate results would be around for a while.

The markets, which began the week with stunning rises, lost their momentum as investors took profits. Thai shares fell the most, with the main index ending the day down 9.5 percent at 505.59 points.

"We're back to the realism that perhaps things aren't as rosy as we thought," said Miles Remington, a trader at SocGen Crosby Securities.

"Markets are going to have economic problems going forward, and

economic growth will be under pressure."

Hong Kong stocks fell 2 percent, while Tokyo lost just under 1 percent. Jakarta fell 3 percent, and Manila was off 2 percent. Malaysia shared 1.5 percent after Tuesday's 23 percent gain.

Pent-up demand after the Chinese New Year and strength in local currencies explained Monday's rally. Mr. Remington said, but the outlook has worsened once again with the corporate earnings season on the horizon in most major centers.

Poor earnings would remind investors of the havoc caused by the region's economic crisis of the past several months, he said.

## Buyers Sour On Peregrine Asset Unit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG — Potential buyers of the asset-management arm of the failed Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd. have left the negotiating table after finding the funds that the unit managed had performed poorly, Price Waterhouse & Co. said Wednesday.

Price Waterhouse, named last month to liquidate the failed investment-banking group, said the chances of finding a buyer for Peregrine Asset Management (H.K.) Ltd. were slim. Banque Nationale de Paris snapped up Peregrine's prize possession — its Greater China brokerage and corporate-finance business — for an undisclosed sum this week.

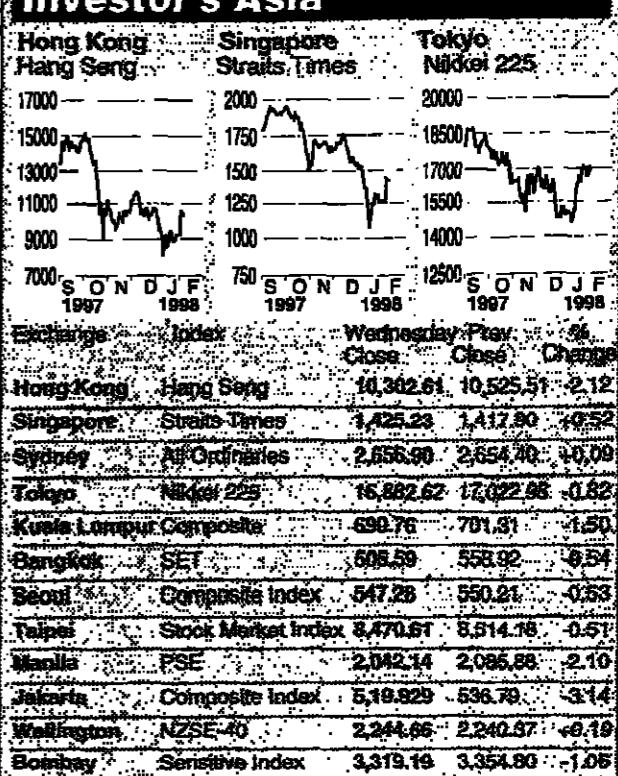
"We are negotiating with three parties for significant parts, and in addition to that, there are other offers on the table for individual offices," David Hague, the liquidator, said.

Sources close to the talks said the Spanish bank Banco Santander SA had made an offer for the whole of Peregrine but that it was conditional and that Peregrine's Greater China team had not been enthusiastic about the offer.

Under the deal struck with Banque Nationale de Paris, about 150 staff representing almost all the people remaining at Peregrine's Greater China equities division will move to a new entity called BNP Prime Peregrine Ltd.

Francis Leung, the co-founder of Peregrine who directed the Greater China equities operations, will be managing director. (AP, Reuters)

## Investor's Asia



Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

## Very briefly:

• Thai Airways International PLC is holding talks with Boeing Co. and Airbus Industrie to delay taking delivery of seven new aircraft from the two companies.

• Cable & Wireless Marine Ltd. of Britain and Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. of Japan formed a strategic alliance to create a new submarine cable engineering company in March to target construction and maintenance in Asia.

• China posted its first trade surplus with the European Union in five years in 1997 as its imports of mechanical and electrical machinery slumped, the official Xinhua news agency said. The \$4.62 billion surplus compared with a deficit of \$4 million in 1996.

• Microsoft Corp.'s chairman, Bill Gates, said that even though sales had been affected by the financial crisis in Asia, the troubles there would not affect the company's investment strategy. "The partnerships we build, those are designed for 10 years, 20 years or 30 years, and we'll be charging full speed ahead with that," he said.

• Yasuda Trust & Banking Co. of Japan said it had appointed Fuji Bank Ltd.'s vice president, Kazuhiko Kasai, as chairman, replacing Fujio Takayama. The move is expected to help Yasuda Trust restructure its business.

• Japan's industrial production at manufacturers with 300 or more employees fell 2.9 percent in the October-December quarter from the July-September quarter, as sluggish sales at home and in Asia offset a rise in exports to the United States and Europe.

• Toho Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Japan and a financial unit of General Electric Co. of the United States are in talks to establish a business partnership that could help increase the ailing insurer's capital base.

• Coca-Cola Co.'s South East and West Asian division said it expected profit from its soft drinks to exceed 1997's record levels despite Asia's economic crisis. It said sales in the region were continuing to grow along with profits in dollar terms despite severe currency depreciations in some of the countries in which it operates.

AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters

## South Korean 'Shark-Watchers' Fend Off Foreign Firms

Bloomberg News

SEOUL — Paek Jin Mook has one of the hottest jobs in South Korea these days: "shark-watcher."

That is what people are calling a new breed of financial professionals emerging to help companies here fend off hostile takeovers. As the country throws open its struggling economy, shark-watchers like Mr. Paek say they are in for a busy year.

"I'm so excited about my new job," said the 37-year-old Mr. Paek, who works for Daewoo Securities Co., the nation's largest brokerage. "We are bombarded with requests from both local and foreign investors these days inquiring about possible mergers and acquisitions."

The shark-watchers may get even busier after a government panel made it easier for foreigners to make hostile bids. United Technologies Corp. and other foreign companies have already started buying parts of Korean companies made cheap by a slump in stocks and the currency last year.

In Seoul, specialists in mergers and acquisitions say inquiries have risen tenfold in the past few months. Investment bankers around Asia say their business may boom as U.S. and European companies try to cash in on Asia's financial crisis by picking up companies on the cheap.

Plenty of Korean companies need foreign money as the economy heads for its slowest

year in almost two decades. A record 15,000 Korean companies went bankrupt last year.

Legal changes being considered by President-elect Kim Dae Jung and his economic task force would make it cheaper for would-be raiders to attack. Among other things, Korea would drop a requirement that investors buy 41 percent of a company's stock the moment their holdings exceed 25 percent. Also, investors would not have to get management's approval before buying more than 10 percent of a company, although they would need it before buying more than a third.

Once the laws are revised, the foreign sharks may start circling.

For companies with dollars to spend, many

Korean companies cost a third of what they did a year ago. The currency, the won, lost about half its value against the dollar since then.

Already, the number of public companies in which a single foreign investor or an investment group holds more than 5 percent more than doubled to 28 from the end of last year, according to the Securities Supervisory Board. They include SK Telecom, Daewoo Corp., Hyosung T&C Co., Bukwang Pharmaceutical Industry Co. and Hankook Tire Manufacturing Co.

"Under the current liquidity situation, Korean companies have no choice but to yield to foreign pressure," said Oh Dong Jin, an official at the Federation of Korean Industries.

## Saison to Sell Hotels

### Group Seeks Buyer for Inter-Continental

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Saison Group said Wednesday it was seeking a buyer for its Inter-Continental Hotels & Resorts division, which analysts have said could be worth \$3 billion.

The group said it had received "several earnest offers" for the chain during preparations for a U.S. stock listing for the unit, prompting the decision to sell.

The sale of the hotel chain, which Saison bought in 1988 for 280 billion yen (now \$2.22 billion), is expected to help the group pare down its debts when financial institutions are reluctant to expand lending. Saison also plans to raise funds by selling its stake in a major convenience-store operator through its Seiyu Ltd. division.

Inter-Continental operates 188 hotels worldwide and has three in Japan. (Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

## Australia Mounts Defense Of Its Exports to East Asia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CANBERRA — Australia, seeking to shield exports from the Asian economic crisis and combat an aggressive U.S. trade push in the region, extended its export underwriting package Wednesday to include Indonesia.

Prime Minister John Howard said there would be no limit to export assistance to Indonesia, which follows a 300 million Australian dollar (\$206 million) package for exports to South Korea.

Mr. Howard also warned that Canberra was considering other steps to protect Australia from U.S. competition.

"Our exporters are facing fierce, even on occasion actively aversive competition from U.S. exporters into Indonesia, who are not being shy in the export methods being employed in order to gain access to the Indonesian market," Mr. Howard said.

Australia is also considering a complaint to the World Trade Organization.

The United States is offering \$2 billion in export credits to East Asian nations to buy its farm goods. (Reuters, AFP)



## Win Two Airline Tickets in the Air Canada/IHT Competition

1. How many more centimetres of foot room do you gain in Air Canada's Executive First compared to all other airlines?

- a. 2.5cm b. 12.5 cm c. 37.5cm

2. What does Air Canada offer you in Executive First?

- a. Cookies and ice-cream  
b. Unlimited supply of mineral water  
c. Personal phone  
d. Personal video

e. Complimentary gift  
f. Executive First check-in  
g. Personal computer games  
h. All of the above

Please fill in the coupon below and fax or mail your entry to the International Herald Tribune. A prize drawing will be held and the first two correct entries drawn will win two free airline tickets. Entry deadline is February 28, 1998.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) Entries must be received no later than February 28, 1998.

2) Valid only where legal. No purchase necessary.

3) Entries will not be accepted from staff, families and agents of the newspaper or Air Canada (including its partners).

4) No correspondence will be entered into. Proof of postage or e-mail request will not be accepted as proof of receipt.

5) Winners will be drawn on March 15, 1998 and published thereafter in the newspaper. The first two correct entries drawn will be the winners.

6) On all matters, the Publisher's decision is final.

7) The Publisher reserves the right in his absolute discretion to disqualify any entry, competitor or nominee, or to waive any rules in the event of circumstances outside our control which, in his opinion, make it desirable to cancel the competition at any stage.

8) Tickets are valid for travel until December 30, 1998. However, tickets must be booked and ticketed no later than December 15, 1998 or they will no longer be valid.

9) Valid on board Air Canada scheduled flights only. This does not include the Air Canada Connectors network: Air Nova, AirBC, Air Ontario, Air Alliance, our alliance partners, charters, and codesharing.

10) Some blackout dates apply. Fridays/Saturdays are blocked out year round on eastbound flights; Saturdays/Sundays are blocked out year round on westbound flights.

11) Tickets are not transferable and are not redeemable for cash.

12) Transportation is subject to space availability at time of reservation.

13) Once tickets have been issued, (1) routings and destinations cannot be changed; (2) Tickets are valid for a 3-month period from the date issued; and (3) upgrades are not permitted under any circumstances.

14) Airline mileage accumulation is not permitted on promotional (Complimentary) Passes.

Herald Tribune  
**SPORTS**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1998

## WORLD ROUNDUP



Iva Majoli hitting to Li Fang in the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo. Li Fang retired hurt.

## Seeds Fall in Croatia

**TEAM** The seeds continued to fall in the Croatian Indoors tournament in Split on Wednesday. Thomas Johansson the No. 6 seed, lost to Martin Sinner, ranked 100th in the world, in the first round. Andrei Medvedev the No. 4 seed, lost, 6-3, 6-7 (2-7), 6-1, to Kenneth Carlsen, in the second round. Tim Henman, seeded No. 3, and Javier Sanchez, seeded No. 7, seed, had already lost in the first round.

## Greene Breaks Record

**ATHLETICS** Maurice Greene broke the world indoor 60-meter record, clocking 6.39 seconds in Madrid on Tuesday. On Sunday, Greene had equaled the previous record of 6.41 seconds set by Andre Cason in 1992. (AP)

## Stade Officials Hopeful

**RUGBY UNION** Officials at the Stade de France said the field would be ready for the Five Nations match between France and England on Saturday. The stadium, which opened last week, has no undersoil heating. The field is reportedly frozen to a depth of 10 centimeters. (AP)

## Frye Stays With Boston

**BASEBALL** Second baseman Jeff Frye and the Boston Red Sox avoided arbitration by agreeing to a \$7 million, three-year contract. Frye, 31, hit .312 last year. (AP)

## Skeleton Out of Olympic Closet

The Associated Press

**NAGANO**, Japan — The sport of skeleton and women's bobsledding and ski jumping could be added to the Olympics for the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Ski jumping, bobsledding and Nordic Combined are the only sports left in the Winter Games with no women's events.

The International Olympic Committee wants more women competitors in the Summer and Winter Games. The Salt Lake City organizers said Wednesday they were willing to comply.

Salt Lake officials also said they were willing to include skeleton, a sport which involves sliding head-first down an ice track on a sled. The event would use the same course as that used for luge.

## Drug Warning for Hockey Stars

Dr. Makoto Ueki, the chief drug tester at the Winter Olympics, said Wednesday he believed that some National Hockey League players at the Games could test positive for Sudafed, a commonly used, over-the-counter cold remedy. The Associated Press reported from Nagano. "It is prohibited, even for colds," he said.

**SPOTS** Illustrated, the American sports magazine, reported last week that 20 percent of NHL players routinely use Sudafed to increase their energy. The medication contains pseudoephedrine, which in large enough amounts acts as a stimulant. It is banned by the IOC but not by the NHL.

"I think the Sudafed issue will be a problem for this tournament," Ueki said. "This is not new. It has been banned previously."

## SCOREBOARD

## BASKETBALL

## NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		ATLANTIC DIVISION		CENTRAL DIVISION		WESTERN CONFERENCE		MOUNTAIN DIVISION	
Portland	19	26	19	578	96	8	14	14	12
Seattle	20	20	20	562	95	9	15	15	12
New York	25	20	552	3	10	10	15	15	12
New Jersey	26	21	20	547	95	11	16	16	12
Miami	22	23	22	571	4	12	17	17	12
Orlando	22	25	469	7	13	13	17	17	12
Boston	21	25	457	7	14	14	17	17	12
Philadelphia	20	24	311	127	15	15	17	17	12
Indiana	33	12	722	—	16	16	17	17	12
Chicago	34	14	708	—	17	17	17	17	12
Charlotte	26	18	607	57	18	18	17	17	12
Cleveland	27	18	600	45	19	19	17	17	12
Atlanta	28	20	582	67	20	20	17	17	12
Milwaukee	24	22	522	97	21	21	17	17	12
Denver	23	19	507	77	22	22	17	17	12
Toronto	10	36	217	272	23	23	17	17	12

PACIFIC DIVISION		10		19		10		20	
Seattle	10	19	783	2	10	10	10	10	10
L.A. Lakers	33	11	750	2	10	10	10	10	10
Phoenix	31	14	689	49	10	10	10	10	10

## So Many Injuries, So Little Time to Heal

*Germany's Scarred Figure-Skating Pair Hopes for Luck in Avoiding More Accidents*

By Jere Longman

*New York Times Service*

**N**AGANO, Japan — In his hometown of Chemnitz in Eastern Germany, the figure skater Ingo Steuer owns a pub with a laundry room so customers can have a beer while their clothes churn through the rinse cycle. If only he could be so creative in avoiding injury.

The scars on the bodies of Steuer and his pairs partner, Mandy Woetzel, read like a zippered road map through their dangerous careers. They are the world pairs champions, but seldom have their expectations exceeded their insurance premiums.

Steuer has the knees of an American football offensive lineman, not a figure skater, having undergone surgery six times. Woetzel once caught a skate blade in the head and remained in the hospital for three months.

Steuer and Woetzel were forced to withdraw during the long program at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, when she tripped on a rut and fell on her chin. The cut needed stitches and Steuer had to carry her from the ice in his arms.

"Sometimes you stop on your toe pick and sometimes you stop on your chin," said Peter Krick, the executive director of the German figure-skating association.

Steuer and Woetzel recovered to win the 1997 world figure skating championship last March, and finally, with the 1998 Winter Olympics approaching, Woetzel and Steuer seemed to be over their troubles. The world title had made them early gold-medal favorites.

But if not for bad luck, they would have no luck at all.

On Dec. 8, Steuer stood on the edge of a street in Chemnitz when a passing car whacked his right forearm with the side-view mirror. The collision broke the mirror and hyperextended his arm, partly tearing ligaments in his right shoulder.

Though pain came to radiate into his neck and back, and he suffered headaches, Steuer continued to skate after the accident until the discomfort became debilitating at the Champion-

Series final, an Olympic preview held in Munich on Dec. 19 and 20. During the long program, Steuer felt a sharp pain that extended to his head when he caught Woetzel after a triple twist. The pair finished second to Yelena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze, but Steuer does not know how.

"I felt a stitch in my ear and after that I couldn't remember anything," said Steuer, who left the arena on a stretcher and was taken to a hospital. He needed such a dose of painkillers that he could not perform in the exhibition the next day.

For three weeks, the pair did not skate. For another two weeks, they were limited to footwork tracings. They skipped the European championships in January and only last week began the lifts and throws that will be necessary to win a medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics.

The pair's competition begins Sunday. Under the circumstances, Woetzel and Steuer would be happy with the bronze medal.

During practice Tuesday, Steuer, 31, kept shaking his arm like a baseball pitcher who has uncorked a fastball too early in spring training. His right arm is what he uses to lift Woetzel, to throw her and to hold her head just above the ice on a death spiral.

"We don't think about the pain," Steuer said.

He added: "It doesn't matter. We will do what we can do. Our dream is a medal. We will skate for a medal."

Berezhnaya and Sikharulidze of Russia, the 1998 European champions, are the Olympic favorites. Artur Dmitriev of Russia won the 1992 Olympic title and the 1994 silver medal with his previous partner and will attempt to win gold again with Oksana Kazakova. The third medal appears to be up for grabs among Woetzel and Steuer, Marina Eltsova and Andrei Bushkov of Russia and the American pairs, Kyoko Ina and Jason Dungen and Jenni Meno and Todd Sand.

Steuer said that his main problem now is not pain, but stamina. "We tried the short program and the long program at home," he said. "It was clear and slow. We have no conditioning."

This season was to serve as redemption for the 1994 Games in Lilleham-



Dong Miller/The Associated Press

Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer of Germany keeping their spirits up during a practice skating session in Nagano, Japan, on Wednesday.

mer, when Steuer held Woetzel's arms when she hit a divot in the ice.

"We've had enough bad stories," Steuer said. Woetzel could only agree.

In 1989, while performing side-by-side camel spins with her former partner, Axel Rauschenske, Woetzel caught a skate blade in her head that kept her hospitalized for three months and out of school for half a year. Doctors told her to retire, she said, but she insisted on continuing, even if she and Steuer now place extra distance between them on spins to avoid another frightening injury.

"The doctors said it was too dangerous," said Steuer. "I said, 'This is my life, I want to live.' I'm not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're sick at the Masters, you've still got the Open and the PGA. This is a one-shot deal."

They will take one final shot at an Olympic medal before turning professional.

"You train for four years and you see the whole thing disintegrating because of an unfortunate illness or something," said John Nicks, who coaches Meno and Sand. "It's not like golf. If you're

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1998

## Avalanche Of Cash for The Winter Olympics

NAGANO, Japan — Major decisions have been made to break the tradition of holding the Winter Games in separate years.

But the games have paid off in billions of dollars.

Olympic officials say Games have generated record revenue — three times more than Lillehammer in 1994.

Lillehammer launched the Winter Games in 1994.

It was a success.

Now Nagano has chosen to host the games in 1998.

More than \$30 million in revenue is expected.

France Is on Defensive Over World Cup Tickets

Reuters

PARIS — France's World Cup organizers, under fire for limiting ticket allocations to foreign fans, said Wednesday that the country's small stadiums had severely restricted their options.

France will hold the biggest World Cup this summer, with more teams than ever — 32 — qualifying for the month-long soccer tournament.

But foreign soccer federations, particularly in neighboring European countries, have criticized the division of tickets. Only 20 percent of the 2.5 million tickets will go to the soccer federations of other countries for distribution to their supporters, and an additional 8 percent will go to tour operators.

Twelve percent have been reserved for competition sponsors.

Isabelle Delaye, head of World Cup ticketing, said she had followed guidelines laid down by the world soccer governing body, FIFA, and had been as generous as possible to non-French fans.

"We offered more tickets for foreigners than we were obliged to," Delaye said. "We've done the best we could in difficult circumstances."

Delaye said her organizing committee was respecting FIFA rules and making 20 percent of tickets available to national soccer federations outside France.

She said only 15 percent of tickets had been reserved for federations at the last World Cup in the United States in 1994 but that U.S. stadiums had an average 70,000 seats. The 10 French World Cup stadiums have an average capacity of 46,000.

Although there were eight fewer teams at the U.S. competition and therefore fewer matches, there were some one million more tickets on offer.

France has built an 80,000-seat stadium, the Stade de France, and has upgraded most of the other venues. But officials said they could not add more.

The new stadium is due to open in time for the 1998 World Cup.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Organizers say the stadium will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies.

